



TRAVEL

Stepping out
at the bottom
of the world



REVIEW

The brave men who
fought unwinnable
war at Gallipoli

BOOKS

Miles Davis
mugged by his
own words

LAST MONTH'S
AVERAGE DAILY SALE
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THE



TIMES

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SATURDAY MARCH 3 1990

Thatcher hits back at poll tax criticism

Shetland leads way with the lowest rate

By Richard Ford, Political Correspondent

The Prime Minister will today launch a defiant defence of the poll tax and attempt to reassure alarmed Conservatives in Westminster and the country.

As Mrs Thatcher prepared to face down her critics at the party's local government conference in London today, she was given ammunition to justify her position when Wandsworth council set a poll tax figure £23 below the Whitehall target.

The Wandsworth community charge will not, however, be the lowest in Britain. That will be the £127.30 to be levied in the Shetland Isles, although the area's small population and the presence of the North Sea oil installations mean Shetland is widely regarded as a one-off case.

The average charge in Scotland this year will be £328, a rise of £27 over last year. The highest is in Edinburgh, where the capital's population will pay £438, £46 more than last year; and the lowest on the mainland is in Sutherland, at £232.

The charges for other cities include £338 in Glasgow, from £306 last year; £305 in Aberdeen, up £1; and £336 in Dundee, a £12 increase.

There was more bad news for the Conservatives yesterday when the former Mayor

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in Brighton followed the example of 18 West Oxfordshire councillors and resigned the party whip.

As the town council prepared for a second all-night attempt to fix its community charge, Mr Robert Crisofoli said: "The party is committing political suicide over the tax. It is time the Prime Minister and her gang of lemmings realised that the country should come first". He said the Tories faced being "slaughtered" in the local government elections in May.

With a Labour lead of 18.5 points in the latest opinion poll and the Government facing serious economic difficulties, Mrs Thatcher will today be making one of her most crucial speeches since becoming Prime Minister.

Ministers are, however, braced for a barrage of criticism. The revolt around England continued yesterday, even reaching the Prime Minister's home town of Grantham. There, 10 Conservatives demanded that council cash reserves be used to trim £18 from the £278 charge, but were defeated.

In Langbaurgh, Cleveland, Conservative absences left Labour councillors in a majority of one on the finance committee, and they proceeded to refuse to recommend a community charge, voted to abolish the tax and

decided to send a protest letter to Mrs Thatcher. A council spokesman said "this slight hiccup" would be corrected at the full council meeting. Darlington's "hung" district council set a £356 community charge, then demanded a general election on the issue.

Mr David Hunt, the Minister for Local Government, led the chorus of approval for Wandsworth, hailing its announcement as a "superb" result. He compared the figure with neighbouring Labour-controlled Lambeth, which he claimed was charging £650, and said: "We have seen how Labour's policy in London is the highest charge they can get away with. Wandsworth's charge is an exemplification of Conservative policy - the lowest consistent with a proper level of service."

But the Wandsworth figure was derided by senior Labour politicians as an attempt to take pressure off the Government. While other London boroughs paid into the safety net, Wandsworth received £24 million in safety net grant.

Mr David Blunkett, the Opposition spokesman on local government, accused the Government of manipulating the grant system to reward councils such as Wandsworth while punishing everyone else. "It is little more than political bribery," he said.

As Conservative MPs returned to their constituencies, a succession of the Prime Minister's most senior colleagues sought to steady the party's nerve by highlighting the record of high-spending Labour-controlled councils.

Mr David Waddington, the Home Secretary, said in Portsmouth that councils had to get their spending under control. While it was always difficult changing to a new system, the logic of the community charge was inescapable. It was better that everyone paid something and without such a system it was unlikely that sensible local government would ever emerge.

Curb on pilots' hours will raise air fares

By Harvey Elliott, Air Correspondent

Air fares will have to rise by at least 7 per cent as scheduled airlines throughout Europe are forced to employ an additional 3,800 pilots at a cost of more than £320 million a year to meet new regulations limiting flying hours now being proposed by the European Commission.

Airlines were only told of the new proposals in detail last week and immediately warned that if they are adopted schedules could be thrown into chaos and many small airlines

could fold. The proposals are in a draft regulation due to be discussed by the Council of Ministers in June, and could become law by the summer and be in full effect within the next two years.

The change would reduce the number of hours pilots could fly to no more than eight in any one day and 720 hours in a full year - 25 per cent below the strict limits already imposed by the Civil Aviation Authority.

BA costs fears, page 4

Scots pressure holds back the clock

By Quentin Cowdry, Home Affairs Correspondent

Ministers are to postpone further discussion of whether British time should be harmonized with the rest of Europe because they fear it will embroil the Government in yet more controversy.

The Government, which at one stage mildly favoured the proposal, intended to allow MPs a free vote on the issue over the next few weeks to pave the way for a possible time-changing Bill in the next parliamentary session. Harmonization would mean clocks going one hour ahead of Greenwich Mean Time in

winter and two hours in summer. The new system, technically known as "single-double summer time" would mean lighter summer evenings and darker winter mornings, with the biggest changes felt in the North of England and in Scotland.

However, ministers worried about the hostility harmonization has provoked in Scotland and the Government's generally embattled position, believe the question should be delayed.

Senior Whitehall sources said yesterday Brussels was

keen that Britain should follow the rest of the European Community and put its clocks back in September rather than October, but was not pressing for complete harmonization.

Mr Angus Crichton-Miller, chairman of the Daylight Action Group, which has been pressing for Britain to "Europeanize" its time, said: "We are very disappointed that the Government has decided to prevaricate."

He said independent research indicated that harmonization would save

Israelis censor settler reports

By Richard Owen, Gilo, Israel, and Martin Fletcher, Washington

Israel imposed censorship yesterday on news items relating to Soviet immigration, as tensions with its Arab neighbours and the United States rose over the continuing flow of Jews into the occupied territories.

The US has threatened to curtail aid over the influx of Jews into disputed territory in the belief that it threatens prospects for peace talks.

The Bush Administration has said it will give Israel \$400 million (£239 million) in

housing-loan guarantees, to settle Soviet Jews, only if it receives binding assurances that the immigrants will not be settled in the occupied territories, Mr James Baker.

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the US Secretary of State, said this week. Earlier he said Moscow had "genuine concern" that Israel would settle Soviet Jews in the West Bank.

Mr Yitzhak Shamir, the

Israeli Prime Minister, yesterday rejected the linkage of US aid and the issue of Jewish settlements in occupied land. A spokesman for him denied, however, that the censorship rules were being imposed because of any "political motivation". The step had been taken because of "threats by various Palestinian organizations against immigration and immigrants".

Officials said yesterday that Israel was anxious to ensure that the flow of immigrants

was not impeded, and to find sufficient funds to give them jobs and housing. Mr Shamir regards the influx of Soviet Jews as one of the "greatest blessings" since Israel was founded in 1948. On Monday, an Arab League delegation arrives in Moscow to persuade Soviet leaders to reduce the flow of Soviet immigrants, and Israeli officials fear that speculation over the high numbers of Jews going to Israel could undermine immigration to Israel proper.

Proud title handed on

By Kerry Gill

Glasgow's celebration as European City of Culture will leave a lasting legacy to the spirit of Europe, the Queen said during a visit to mark the official handover of the title from Paris.

Speaking at a civic lunch attended by M Jacques Chirac, the Mayor of Paris, the Queen said it was clear that Glasgow, which the industrial revolution had made famous throughout the world, was still demonstrating an international

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Glasgow greeting: The Queen being welcomed at Central Station yesterday by the Lord Provost, Mrs Susan Baird, at the start of a day of royal pageantry.

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Lyons letter to Thatcher

Sir Jack Lyons, a defendant in the Guinness affair trial, wrote to the Prime Minister asking that the company's bid for the Distillers group should not be referred to the monopolies authorities. Southwark Crown Court was told yesterday after Mrs Thatcher accepted his invitation to a lunch with leading industrialists. Page 3

New leader

Norwich play their first international match under Ron Atkinson, their new coach, when they meet Scotland at Addicks. A win for Scotland will keep them on course for the grand slam. Page 49



Mr Crichton-Miller: Britain faces "worst of all worlds".

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T H E N E W L A N C I A D E D R A



Prime Minister at lunch with defendant as DTI investigated Guinness

Personal plea to Thatcher in takeover war



Sir Jack Lyons: "A senior and influential City figure."

A defendant in the Guinness affair trial wrote to the Prime Minister asking that the company's bid for the Distillers group should not be referred to the monopolies authorities, it was disclosed in court yesterday.

And within five weeks of the Department of Trade and Industry beginning its investigation into the takeover, the accepted his invitation to a high-powered lunch with leading industrialists, Southwark Crown Court was told.

Sir Jack Lyons's letter asked for an "even-handed decision", his barrister Mr Robert Harman, QC, told the court, and about two weeks later the bid was cleared.

Sir Jack, Ernest Saunders, the former chairman and chief executive of Guinness, Gerald Ronson, chairman of Heron International, and the stockbroker Anthony Parnes deny 24 counts of theft, false accounting and breaches of the Companies Act.

Mr Harman said that about five weeks after the Department of Trade and Industry began its inquiry, the Prime Minister attended a lunch at Sir Jack's invitation at Bain and Co, management consul-

ants to Guinness. Mr Olivier Roux, Guinness's former finance director, agreed that was the case, adding that she had stipulated that the present establishment at Guinness should not be there. Leading industrialists were present.

Turning to the letter, Mr Harman said it was sent on March 3, 1986, days after Guinness decided to make a second bid for Distillers. The first had been dropped after being referred to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission.

The letter said: "Despite the fact that 90 per cent of Scotch whisky goes overseas, Mr Saunders's hopes were dashed when the company's bid for Distillers was referred. It seems to have been based on the narrow issue of sales in the UK. The opposing bidder, Argyll plc, were not referred as they are a supermarket group whose experience of the liquor business, and especially international export is at the cheap end of the market."

"Guinness withdrew their original bid and proceeded to launch a new bid which not only contained terms more favourable to the shareholders of Distillers, but was one in

which the Distillers company agreed to sell off certain brands so that any fear of UK competition was eliminated."

"I am writing to you personally because I am concerned with the fact the right stewardship for the Scottish whisky industry is an important national matter, more at this time than ever during your leadership, and that the next decision probably due within the next one to three days, should not be left to the Office of Fair Trading or a junior Department of Trade and Industry minister because of a relation-

ship of the Secretary of State.

"I do therefore hope that you take steps that will lead to an even-handed decision."

Mr Harman explained that because the then Secretary of State, Mr Paul Channon, was a member of the Guinness family, he had handed responsibility for the issue to Mr Geoffrey Pattie.

The Prime Minister replied two days later that the decision was not a "collective government" one, but a matter for Mr Pattie.

The reply said: "Paul Channon has, as you say,

delegated this particular decision to the minister of state Geoffrey Pattie. I feel that Geoffrey Pattie should know the contents of your letter, but as you marked the envelope private and personal I would not want to pass it to him unless you wished me to do so. Perhaps you could telephone my office if you would like this to be done."

CHARGES

Companies Act; two of false accounting and one of theft.

Anthony Parnes, 44, of London, faces five charges of false accounting and two of theft.

Sir Jack Lyons, 74, of Kensington, west London, faces one charge of conspiracy to contravene the Companies Act; one of conspiracy to contravene the Companies Act; one of aiding Saunders to contravene the Companies Act; and one of false accounting and one of theft.

Gerald Ronson, 50, of Hampstead, north-west London, faces one charge of conspiracy to contravene the Companies Act; one of aiding Saunders to contravene the Companies Act; and one of false accounting and one of theft.

Ernest Saunders, aged 54, of Putney, south-west London, faces two charges of conspiracy to contravene the Companies Act; one of aiding Saunders to contravene the Companies Act; and one of false accounting and one of theft.

Two years for man who tried to sell stolen works of art

By Sarah Jane Checkland and David Sapstead

An Irishman who tried to sell some of the world's finest paintings, stolen from the Beit Collection in a £30 million arts theft in 1986, was sentenced to two years in prison at Southwark Crown Court in London yesterday.

Detectives said that the conviction brought them no nearer to solving Ireland's biggest art theft, which took place at the home of Sir Alfred Beit, the South African diamond magnate, in County Wicklow.

The 17 paintings stolen included Velasquez's "Kitchen Maid with the Supper at Emmaus", Frans Hals' "The Lute Player", Vermeer's "The Astronomer" and the portrait of "Don Antonio Zarate" by Goya. Six were recovered after the raid and police in Turkey are questioning a Scotsman about the robbery following the discovery of another picture a few days ago.

John Naughton, aged 48, formerly of Dublin, admitted dishonestly handling stolen goods from the Beit Collection. Mr Anthony Leonard, prosecuting, told the court that Naughton was trusted "by well-organized, high-level thieves" with disposing of some of the collection.

Naughton was arrested by New Scotland Yard's Art and Antique Squad in May last year after he was contacted by Mr Trevor Henry Hallwood, a London art dealer. He was approached by Naughton in May 1988 and was initially offered a Gainsborough painting worth £400,000 (assumed to be "The Cottage Girl"). A group of 13 pictures were

gradually introduced but never seen. They included a Guardi, Meiss and a Goya.

Naughton went to see the dealer one day, told him to cancel whatever he was doing, as they had to move quickly to Geneva where the client was waiting. The dealer's cut would be £500,000, he said.

When Mr Hallwood asked if the client was the IRA, Naughton said "No, but they are big time art thieves."

The dealer had taped a conversation with Naughton. He offered to telephone the police and the Irishman panicked, saying that, if he did, they would both be killed.

Mr Peter Feinberg, defending, told the court that Naughton was a "Walter Mittyish character" who made no profit from the venture whatsoever. "He was a fish completely out of water at the end of the line. He's an extremely naive man and this was a completely unreal world for him," counsel said.

Judge Robert Taylor said: "I accept that you are somebody who in the past has been a hard worker and a decent and honest man. I also accept that you are a Walter Mittyish character who was naive and very much out of your depth."

"The difficulty I have in your case is that you acted on behalf of professional thieves to dispose of extremely valuable paintings when a great deal of money is at stake. "It is because people like you lead yourself to this type of conduct that thieves are enabled to reap the proceeds of this type of professional crime."



Inspector takes stock of the flood of claims



Mr Shaun Lloyd, an insurance claims inspector, making his way through the streets of Towyn yesterday as a few residents returned to check the damage.

Deception charges

Woman cheated council and companies out of £900,000

A woman council worker cheated companies and ratepayers out of nearly £900,000 by sending back bills submitted to the council and claiming that the companies owed her money, Southwark Crown Court, south London, was told yesterday.

Navier Riley, a clerk, duped Camden Council in London out of £37,000 and went on to secure credit worth hundreds of thousands of pounds after dishonestly obtaining mortgages and reversing standing orders, it was said.

She also extracted huge sums from British Telecom and the Electricity Board by resubmitting their bills. British Telecom sent her a cheque for £126,000.

Over nine months, Riley, a mother of two children, duped the Eastern Electricity Board by claiming it owed her £79,000 for an "electrical substation" in her back garden; claimed that British Telecom owed £500,000 for a "damage claim"; took a cheque from

British Telecom paid to Camden Council for £32,000 for road repairs by changing the payee's name to her own; made Camden pay for £30,000 worth of renovations to her house by paying the builder with a council cheque; and falsely obtained mortgages on two properties to a value of £254,000 from Lloyds Bank and IMF Financial Services.

However, of the total of £893,000 worth of credit she secured, only £32,000 so far remains unrecovered.

Riley, an administrative assistant with Camden Council's information technology department, received a three-year prison sentence. She committed the offences while serving a suspended 12-month prison sentence for theft and false accounting.

Mr Andrew Coleman, for the prosecution, said that David Longmore, aged 26, who was living with Riley, had received an 18-month suspended sentence four weeks ago for mortgage frauds.

Riley was caught when one of the altered cheques was refused by two banks.

She was arrested at her home in Nelson Mandela Close, Tottenham, north London.

Riley's defence counsel Michael Haynes said his client encountered prejudice at work. For an "intelligent and articulate" person, she was under-employed at the council, "completely wasted in her job". He also said that she had a chip on her shoulder.

Judge James Hainan told Riley: "You're an intelligent young lady and you knew exactly what you were doing. It seems you were motivated by resentment, possibly, and certainly by greed."

Riley admitted four charges of deception, one of theft, one of obtaining property by deception and false accounting between November, 1988, and July last year. Six other charges were left on file not to be proceeded with.

Sadness and stench as residents return

By Ronald Faux

Mrs Lynn Lawrence, with tears in her eyes, returned yesterday to what remained of her home, devastated by the floods that poured through the sea wall at Towyn, Clwyd.

"It is heart-breaking, sad. Everything is wrecked," she said. Walls were stained by the retreating flood water, carpets and bedding lay in a tangled, water-logged heap and permeating everything was the stench of damp and filth.

Other flood victims returning to inspect their homes were met by equally devastating sights.

The area had first been checked by gas, electricity and water board engineers.

There was no immediate prospect of householders from the most severely affected areas returning permanently to their homes.

Some less severely affected decided to move back and begin the daunting job of making their homes habitable again.

The flood struck so suddenly few families had any chance to escape with more than the clothes they were

wearing. Mr Derrick Overthrow, aged 61, feared his nursery business, built up over 38 years had been wiped out. He put his losses at £250,000. "I have had a good cry this morning and I don't think I have cried for 40 years."

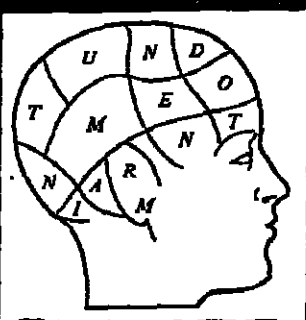
Mr Gary Pickup, aged 31, and his wife Jackie, aged 28, opened the door of their bungalow in Kimmel Bay and were met by an appalling stench. "The place is absolutely wiped out," he said.

Meanwhile repair work on the seawall at Towyn continued yesterday against a forecast for the weekend of yet more gales.

The Prince of Wales has made a donation to a fund set up to help the flood-hit north Wales coast after his flying visit to the area on Thursday. The fund, set up by Colwyn Borough Council, has topped £100,000.

The council said: "The Prince was particularly concerned about the number of families who did not have insurance to cover their losses."

NEXT WEEK



TOURNAMENT OF THE MIND

Do you know the difference between pannage and pansophy? If you do, or know where to find the answer, then you should pencil a reminder in your diary for next Tuesday. That is the first day of The Times Tournament of the Mind, played over 20 rounds with questions devised and marked by Mensa.

Queues will form outside libraries, housework will stay undone and puzzle aficionados will stay home, wrestling with logic, numeracy, and general knowledge. This third annual trial of intellect has become almost an obsession for some, and the rewards are more than the satisfaction of meeting a challenge. The winner receives £5,000. The winning school team receives a computer.

This year, for the first time, every entrant will receive a special certificate. Those who score above a certain level of points will receive a personalized bronze, silver or gold certificate. The top 100 entrants take part in the final five rounds, beginning on April 23. To make the search for the winner even more exciting, the top 10 individual scorers from the finals will be invited to London to take part in a play-off final against the clock.

Last year's winner, Andrew Johnston, will be defending his title and offers this tip for fellow contestants: "The key is defining precisely what the problem is."

As a taster, try this: What is the species name of the largest monitor lizard? The answer, if you need it, is on page 14.

Duchess is sued by Barclays

Barclays Bank has launched a High Court legal action against Margaret, Duchess of Argyll, over a £26,000 debt.

It says the Duchess, aged 77, whose second marriage to the 11th Duke of Argyll ended in divorce in 1963, is overdrawn on her current account at its Piccadilly branch.

In a writ issued in the Queen's Bench Division, the bank says that on November 20 last year the Duchess, of Cliveden Place, Belgravia, west London, was overdrawn by £24,715.34.

This figure included money lent to her and interest on it. The bank says it has made a formal demand for repayment but has received nothing. Since then interest of £1,231.19 has been added to the debt, bringing it to £25,946.53 at the beginning of this month.

The writ says that sum will continue to grow by £12.79 a day, with interest at 3 per cent above the bank's base rate, until judgement of its claim or payment.

PORTFOLIO

There were no valid claims in yesterday's Portfolio Platinum competition, so the prize money on Monday will be doubled up to £4,000.

Late hitch for adventurers . . . while flight hits first-day snag

By Ruth Gledhill

An international expedition across Antarctica with a British navigator could lose its ice against time and face spending the bitter polar winter at an isolated Russian base. The six-man team and its dogs are scheduled to arrive today at the Mirny base at the Queen Mary coast, where an international team of print and television journalists is waiting its arrival.

The journalists, too, face a possible winter at the base if the team fails to arrive. Mr Geoff Somers, a carpenter from Kewick, Cumbria, was so far successfully navigating the first-ever dog-led crossing of the polar cap.

The team is a frustrating 13 miles from its destination, but as not been able to move for six days. It is these last few miles that

have become treacherous as howling 50 to 60mph winds, blizzards and invisible 150ft deep crevasses brought the team to a standstill.

The men survived a crisis yesterday morning after Mr Keizo Funatsu, the Japanese team member and dog handler, who was lost in the blizzard with the dogs for 14 hours without a tent, was found in the early hours by a Russian truck sent from the base to rescue him.

Yesterday, the team was sitting out the snowstorms. The weather is so bad that even the Russian truck, which is fitted with radar equipment, stayed put.

The organizer, Mrs Cathy de Moll, executive director of International Polar Expeditions, said: "There is concern that they will have trouble finishing on time. But we are hoping they will get there."

Live broadcasts around the world are scheduled for 11.30am today, when the team is due to arrive.

However, even if the team arrives at the base on time, the ice-breaker meant to ship them out on the first leg of their journey home may not be able to reach them.

The ice pack which freezes around the continent each winter has closed in earlier than usual and a second, stronger ice-breaker is up to 20 days away and by the time it arrives may not be able to get through.

Organizers are now considering using a seven-seater Soviet plane to fly the journalists and the adventurers out.

Another alternative is for the men, dogs and journalists to risk taking a sled across the ice pack to the expedition's research ship, waiting on the other side.

By Peter Davenport

When Mr Brian Edwards guided his Tiger Moth biplane down the runway of the RAF base at Binbrook in Lincolnshire yesterday it was to be the start of a marathon journey to Australia in memory of the father he never knew, a wartime bomber pilot lost in action on a mission from the same airfield.

The first leg of the 15,000-mile flight, however, ended rather sooner than planned.

After less than two hours the yellow aircraft, named Matilda, lost its propeller over the Kent countryside and Mr Edwards, a physiotherapist aged 49, crash-landed in a field two miles from the Headcorn Airfield, near Ashford.

Apart from a dent in his pride, he was unharmed and, in true air force wartime spirit,



Mr Edwards: Asked way to the nearest public house.

Edwards would be rescued. "I don't need any help. I only need directions to the nearest pub."

and said he hoped he could continue his adventure.

He began the journey to his home in Perth, Western Australia, from Binbrook in honour of his father, Pilot Officer Clifford Edwards of the Royal Australian Air Force, who was reported missing on a Lancaster bomber raid from the base almost 50 years ago.

He had been on a mission over Cologne with the RAAF Squadron 460 when his plane disappeared. The fate of the aircraft and its crew remains unknown.

Pilot Officer Edwards had been born in England but emigrated to Australia as a child. His son inherited his love of flying.

On his trip, Mr Edwards planned to raise £100,000 for charity. Engineers are now assessing whether the plane can be repaired.

Teachers and pupils praised for exciting approach to classics

By Douglas Broom, Education Reporter

The ghost of Tom Browne was finally laid to rest yesterday by Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Schools, when it reported that Latin and Greek were among the most excitingly taught subjects.

Although available in a dwindling number of state schools, classics were a thriving and exciting part of the curriculum, the inspectors said, reporting on a survey of 20 schools offering Latin and Greek.

In a report marked by praise for teachers and pupils, the inspectors said that pupils displayed an "infectious enthusiasm" for the subject and commended teachers for setting high standards.

They said that many pupils chose Latin or Greek for the reason that they were difficult subjects because they relished the challenge and enjoyed the confidence gained in mastering them.

The inspectors found that children "welcomed the regular testing" involved in the more formal approach adopted by some of their teachers and praised their "vigorous interest and insight". Throwing aside the

reserved style which normally marks their reports, the inspectors were moved to note: "It was exhilarating to observe the confidence and excitement of pupils."

Of one class, the report added: "Pupils responded with a vivid enthusiasm that made the lesson a memorable experience."

● Fears that a new system of school financing will lead to large-scale teacher redundancies were heightened yesterday by the disclosure that at least 30 teachers in Cambridgeshire are to lose their jobs because of budget cuts.

The first firm evidence to support claims that the implementation of the new national system for giving schools control of their budgets would lead to job losses caused immediate alarm among the teachers' unions.

The National Association of Schoolmasters/Union of Women Teachers, which last year predicted that the jobs of between 15,000 and 30,000 teachers would be at risk, said that the Cambridge cuts would be repeated nationwide. Mr Nigel de Gruchy, its general secretary-designate, said:

"This realizes our worst fears. At a time of teacher shortage it is sheer madness to be sacking teachers. Everybody will suffer — most of all, the children."

One school in St Neots is having its £1.9 million annual budget cut by £95,000. At another, in Ely, seven teachers and an unspecified number of ancillary staff will lose jobs because of a cut of £57,500.

Cambridgeshire County Council was a pioneer of the new scheme and is therefore in a different position to many other authorities introducing the system, known as Local Management of Schools, for the first time next month.

The county council said: "Schools are given their budgets and it is up to them to make savings where necessary." At the City of Ely College, which must lose seven teachers, Mr Roger Day, the headmaster, rejected the county council's suggestion that savings could be made elsewhere. "Of a £1.5 million budget, £1.3 million is salaries," he said. "How on earth do they expect me to make savings without cutting staff?"

British biologists make crop spray breakthrough

By Nick Nuttall
Technology Correspondent

British biologists have made a breakthrough in the international race to develop environmentally friendly pesticides.

They have created a crop-protecting spray with a simple but powerful action that ensures bugs never become immune to its lethal effect. At the same time crops are freed from hazardous chemicals that can contaminate land and rivers and harm animals and humans.

Conventional insecticides use toxic chemicals to poison pests. The safe spray, code-named Huggite, suffocates bugs at a vulnerable phase in their life-cycles.

After a crop-damaging fly has laid its eggs, the young spend time developing in a grub chamber called a pupa case before bursting out as adult pests.

Mr Robert Pickford, a biologist, led a team which developed a method of coating the cases with a harmless, but tough film that trapped the pests inside.

Mr Pickford, a scientist with Humble Growers, a glasshouse firm near Walton Waters, north Humberside, based his thinking on the use of starch to stiffen collars.

The idea came to him while his wife was ironing.

The result is a watery solution made from a starch derivative, dextrin. When sprayed on to hot-house cucumbers it traps the grubs.

Mr Roger Sayer, managing



Safe spray: Mr Robert Pickford, who led the team to develop a pesticide made from a starch derivative harmless to humans

director of Humble Growers, said the beauty of the process was that most beneficial insects survived the coating because they tended to eat their way to freedom. Al-

though Huggite has been developed to cope with white-fly infestations on cucumbers, the company says it has a much wider application. It is awaiting Ministry of Agri-

culture, Fisheries and Foods approval for commercial use. Mr Cliff Clephane, head of horticulture at Lincolnshire College of Agriculture, Lincoln, said the invention was a

tremendous breakthrough. "The problem of residues in crops is close to my heart and if this product can rid us of them it would have ramifications throughout the world."

'Promising' anti-Aids drug to undergo £1m trials

By Thomson Prentice
Science Correspondent

The most promising anti-Aids drug since the development of AZT is to be tested on hundreds of British patients in a clinical trial costing more than £1 million.

The trial, announced yesterday by the Medical Research Council, is expected to begin in the next two months and will involve about 300 volunteers who have Aids or symptoms of infection by the human immunodeficiency virus, HIV.

The investigation is into the potential benefits of a drug called didoxynosine, or DDI, which appears capable of slowing down the replication of the Aids virus.

International researchers are excited about its prospects as an alternative to AZT, or zidovudine, the only drug known to slow down the progress of Aids and prolong victims' lives.

Dr Anthony Pinching, an Aids specialist at St Mary's Hospital, Paddington, London, and a leading organizer

of the trial, said yesterday: "We think there is a good chance of a successful outcome of this trial."

"Early tests of the drug look encouraging, but it is misleading to talk about a cure. We are looking for a treatment for this disease, a way of containing it."

Because of intense interest in DDI among Aids patients, the trial is being structured to allow all participants to receive the drug if they want to.

"We recognize that there are

people who want to have the drug before we know very much about its safety or effectiveness," Dr Pinching said. "Our study allows them the option of being chosen to receive either high or low doses of DDI."

The trial has been set up within a comparatively short time, a reflection of the urgency with which potential new Aids drugs are being investigated around the world. The British patients being recruited are those who are

unable to tolerate the side-effects of AZT, which include bone marrow suppression, anaemia and muscular weakness.

The trial will be conducted in hospitals and clinics throughout Britain, with patients given courses of the drug for up to 18 months. A similar trial will be carried out in France.

The drug was developed in the mid-1970s by the American pharmaceutical company, Bristol-Myers Squibb, as an

anti-cancer compound, but was found to be ineffective. Its antiviral properties were then recognized about five years ago, and Aids-related research on the drug has intensified since then.

Mr Nick Partridge, a spokesman for the Terrence Higgins Trust, a leading Aids charity, said: "This trial is a breakthrough. Until now it has sometimes taken years for new drug treatments to reach this stage."

People with Aids had been

campaigning for much faster access to drugs that might mitigate the effects of the disease, he said.

"This is an experimental treatment which may or may not prove useful in the long term. Meanwhile, we must not forget the importance of safer sexual behaviour for the foreseeable future."

● Scientists using scratch and sniff tests have shown that smoking can seriously damage a person's sense of smell (Our Technology Correspondent writes).

Loss of smell increases with every passing puff, the study shows, and addicts may have to stop for as long as they have been smoking to regain their sense of smell fully.

The findings, published yesterday in *The Journal of the American Medical Association*, come from researchers at the University of Pennsylvania's Smell and Taste Centre, who conducted tests on 600 volunteers.

They believe the loss of smell might be linked to a chemical in tobacco smoke that destroys cells in the nose.

Seal killing protest

A Scottish conservation group has called on the forthcoming North Sea Ministers' Conference to censure Britain for allowing the shooting of seals by salmon farming and fishing interests.

In a letter to delegates, the Islay and Jura Seal Action Group has urged them to make clear to the UK representative that the British Government can no longer "hide behind platitudes", and to impress upon Britain that the slaughter of seals can no longer be tolerated.

Actors win

The actor Stratford Johns and his wife Nanette, an actress, won libel damages yesterday over claims that they assaulted their children. *The Sun*, the *News of the World* and *News Group Newspapers* withdrew the allegations.

Tube plot

Reginald Lee, aged 49, of Ealing, west London, a member of a gang in Scotland which planned to issue fake London Underground travel cards worth £825,000, was yesterday fined £3,000 by the High Court in Edinburgh.

Murder denial

Michael Hodgins and Shane O'Brien of Drogheda, Co Louth, Irish Republic, yesterday denied murdering Timothy Kidman, of Twyford, Hampshire, a gamekeeper at Slane Castle estate, Co Meath. The case, at the Central Criminal Court, Dublin, continues.

Bond winner

Winner of the £250,000 National Savings Premium Bonds monthly prize draw for March is the holder of bond number 17SS 354191 (Glasgow).

Legal hope for whooping cough campaign

The 10-year campaign for compensation by parents who believe their children have been brain damaged by whooping cough vaccine was given fresh hope by a High Court ruling yesterday.

Mr Justice Simon Brown quashed a Legal Aid Board decision refusing or withdrawing aid in seven cases involving victims aged between three and 35.

The ruling could affect up to 200 other claimants who were denied aid after Susan Loveday, aged 17, lost her test case costing £1 million plus in 1988, the most expensive backed by legal aid. She failed to convince the High Court that, on the

balance of probabilities, the pertussis vaccine could cause brain damage. As a result of that ruling legal aid certificates were withdrawn in around 200 cases.

Yesterday, however, a challenge by seven of the litigants succeeded when Mr Justice Brown ruled that the board had misunderstood a joint opinion given by counsel in the Loveday case at the board's appeal hearings.

Counsel agreed that the Loveday decision did not exclude the possibility of another case succeeding. The judge, however, said he reached his decision

"with hesitation and without enthusiasm". None of the cases should be optimistic about eventual success, he said. The decision means the Legal Aid Board will be able to look at new medical evidence.

The Government had assumed a causative link between the vaccine and brain damage and set up a compensation scheme which allowed for a fixed award of £20,000, the judge said. However expert opinion was deeply divided on the question of causation, creating severe problems for litigants who wanted to sue for larger sums.

Prior back on the hustings to join in nephew's by-election campaign

By Craig Seton

Lord Prior, former Conservative Cabinet minister, returned to the political hustings yesterday to lend his support and experience to his nephew, Mr Charles Prior, who is campaigning to defend the Tory majority in the Mid-Staffordshire by-election.

Lord Prior, who is now chairman of GEC, made it clear that his visit to the constituency was a family occasion and said he was convinced his nephew would win a tough contest in difficult circumstances.

Diplomacy and family loyalty reigned during his tour of Sneydlands, a home for the elderly in Rugeley, and he was not tempted to a full discussion of his views on the present Government policies.

He confided to one elderly resident: "I am retired now. I enjoyed my life in politics which was very interesting. I did not always see eye to eye with the lady, but I should not say that here."

Lord Prior's visit coincided with a public opinion poll showing the Conservatives nationally trailing Labour by 18.5 per cent.

Yesterday, the Labour campaign in the constituency switched its attack from the poll tax to the Government's plans for the National Health Service.

The Conservatives are defending a majority of 14,654 in the March 22 poll.

Lord Prior, Secretary of State for Northern Ireland until he left the Government in 1984, conceded it was a bad time for the party but he still believed there would be victory for his nephew. "You could not have a much more difficult position to see a man fighting all the way. Anything can happen in three weeks. He is the sort of person we need in Parliament."

Lord Prior said the poll tax was the most outward and visible form of the Government's difficulties, but he expected it would eventually be modified, perhaps by central government funding of certain items of local spending or



Mr Prior and his uncle, Lord Prior, chat with a resident of Sneydlands, a home for the elderly.

changes in the rate support mechanism.

He added: "It is bad luck for anybody fighting a by-election before the modifications take place."

Lord Prior attacked the Labour Party's alternative plans. They would not be popular, he said, and added that Mrs Thatcher was a very good politician who understood what people felt. He said: "If she does not understand now what the parliamentary party is thinking she never will."

"I think you will find she wants to win the election and wants to get things right for

the best reasons and I think she will."

Mr Prior, an accountant aged 43, has decided to tackle the community charge issue head on, accepting that it will be a central issue of the campaign, which he wants to fight on the Government's record of achievement.

During yesterday's campaigning, he was delighted to find that a number of residents of the old folks' home agreed with his assertion that the average £350 a head rate in Mid-Staffordshire had been set unnecessarily high because of the Labour-controlled county council.

In a photo-call outside, one resident wearing a Tory campaign sticker revealed she was the widow of a former Labour councillor in the area. She said: "There is not a Labour Party any more."

At Labour's campaign headquarters, a former village school at Slitting Mill, outside Rugeley, the candidate, Mrs Sylvia Heal, a social worker,

was joined by Ms Harriet Harman, Shadow Minister of Health.

Ms Harman challenged the Conservative candidate to give his views on the latest rise in prescription charges and to say whether he supported the Government's reforms for the NHS including plans by local hospital trusts to opt out.

Miss Harman said: "It really is not good enough for the Conservatives to keep telling us over and over again that the NHS is safe in their hands."

"People just do not believe them. That is hardly surprising when you look at the blizzard of lies, half truths and calculated deception that has surrounded the introduction of the NHS Bill."

Mrs Heal also challenged Mr Kenneth Clarke, the Secretary of State for Health, to visit the constituency and defend his plans for the health service to doctors, nurses and patients "who so far have had no say".

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THE POLL TAX DEBATE

Poll tax clash of highest and lowest side by side

By Ray Clancy

The poll tax debate was pulled sharply into focus yesterday when Wandsworth in south London, Mrs Margaret Thatcher's favourite local authority, announced England's lowest charge while councillors in neighbouring Lambeth prepared to set the highest.

Conservative councillors in Wandsworth beamed with delight, obviously proud of setting a poll tax of £148, which is £23 below the government estimate of £171 and £48 below the next lowest rate set by Westminster.

But they were immediately criticized by Miss Fiona Macgill, the leader of the Labour opposition group on the council, and Miss Joan Twelves, the leader of Labour-controlled Lambeth council, which is struggling to set its poll tax at under £700.

"The Tories in Wandsworth are mortgaging the future. This is a phoney poll tax that they are using as an election bribe which has been made

possible by favourable grants from the Government. Next year they are facing the choice of doubling the poll tax or halving services," Miss Macgill said. She said the Tories had a secret plan to bridge the future spending gap through huge cuts in services which will not be disclosed until after the May elections.

Sir Paul Beresford, leader of Wandsworth, dismissed the claims. "If there are any secret plans I certainly have not seen them. We have produced a poll tax of £148 through careful and efficient savings and we hope to continue doing that in the future. Next year the poll tax might be even lower."

Lambeth councillors are locked in meetings for the next few days trying to set the poll tax.

Miss Twelves said the borough needed to spend £300 million just to keep services at the same level but the Government standard spending assessment for Lambeth is £240 million. "Wandsworth is

using £32 million in reserves and favourable government grants to keep the poll tax down. It is election bribery. In Lambeth we don't have any reserves to soften the blow of what is an unfair tax that will hit the pockets of most people in Lambeth."

"I won't defend the poll tax but I will defend what we need to spend on services. The government estimate of what we need to spend is totally unrealistic. The gap of £60 million is equivalent to £360 a head on the poll tax," Miss Twelves said.

The Lambeth councillors are frantically re-examining every department's budget estimates in an attempt to find areas where savings can be made. Libraries, nurseries, homes for the elderly, youth clubs and adult education centres are prime candidates for cuts.

There can be little doubt that Lambeth is heading for a collision course with the Government and must be a prime

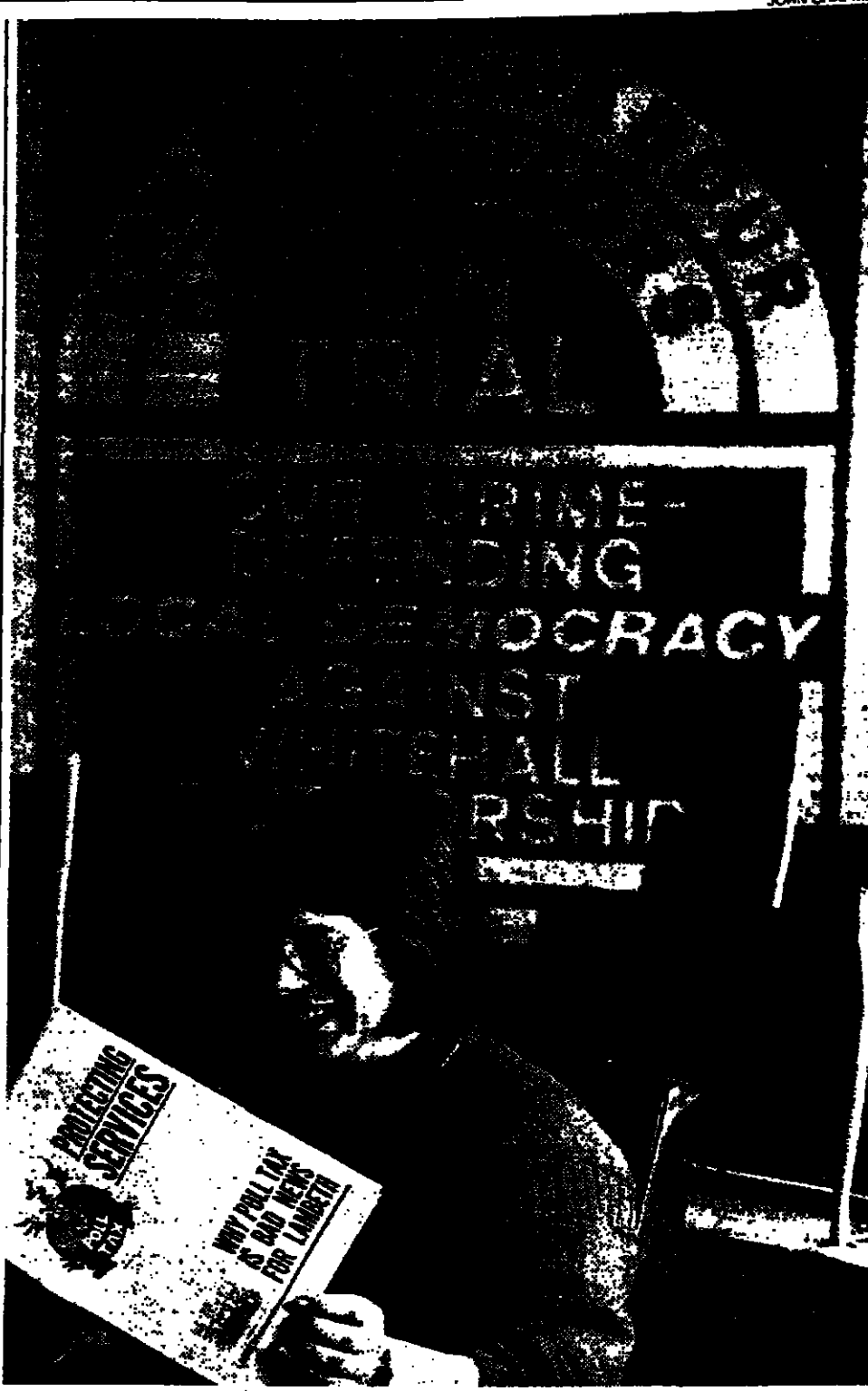
target for capping. Miss Twelves said that would have a disastrous effect on the borough perhaps lead to bankruptcy and would mean cuts in services of £60 million.

If Lambeth sets its charge close to £700 its poll tax payers entitled to the maximum rebate of 80 per cent will be sent bills of about £148, the same as the full tax in next-door Wandsworth.

The contrast can be seen at its plainest in Hazelbourne Road, where residents on one side will pay £148 to Wandsworth council and on the other side they will pay up to £700 to Lambeth council.

It is in this residential road just off Clapham Common in south-west London that the politicians have the most difficulty explaining the anomalies of the poll tax system.

A family of three adults living on the Wandsworth side faces a poll tax bill of £444 but for the same family on the Lambeth side it could be £2,100.



Miss Joan Twelves, leader of Lambeth, studying some council literature on the poll tax yesterday in the council chamber under a poster that went up during Mr Ken Livingstone's campaign against rate capping during his term as leader of the Greater London Council.

Thatcher will face hardest task on figures

By David Walker

According to the list of community charge payments due in the constituencies of Cabinet ministers, it is the Prime Minister who will have the hardest task explaining the difference between what the Government predicted councils needed to levy in tax and what they are proposing to raise.

The local authority for Mrs Thatcher's constituency of Finchley Central, the London Borough of Barnet, is renowned as one of the most parsimonious of the Conservative-controlled outer boroughs. However its charge of £390 per adult is 54 per cent above the figure given the borough by the Department of the Environment.

Barnet's Conservatives blame the requirement on the outer boroughs to contribute to the safety net arrangements for most of the difference. They can also point out that they are planning to spend nearly 2 per cent per head less than Whitehall recommends as the minimum for schools, social services and street cleaning.

Some of Mrs Thatcher's colleagues ought to have an easier time explaining their local council's levies. If Mr Douglas Hurd, Foreign Secretary, had not been confronted with the resignation of the party whip by Conservative councillors on West Oxfordshire District he might have been able to blame a 63 per cent difference between poll tax and government recommendation on Oxfordshire County Council, where no party has overall control.

Oxfordshire County Council is planning to spend 15 per cent more per head than the Department of the Environment says it needs to provide on schools and social services.

However, Sir Geoffrey Howe, the deputy Prime Minister, faces a problem of prime ministerial proportions.

As MP for the solidly Conservative district of Tandridge in solidly Conservative Surrey, Sir Geoffrey has to explain a 54 per cent difference between council and government-approved figures.

Other ministers can put Labour firmly in their sights.

Mr David Waddington, Home Secretary, represents Ribblesdale, which is a Conservative district. Lancashire, the county council, accounts for the bulk of spending and it is Labour-controlled. On the Government's calculations, it is proposing to spend over 11 per cent more per head than it needs to.

WHAT CABINET WILL PAY

	Poll tax Govt	Govt	Diff %
Thatcher	390	254	54
Howe	390	254	54
Hurd	412	253	63
Major	298	231	29
Waddington	355	248	43
Walker	319	248	29
King	323	254	27
Ridley	364	268	36
Baker	395	341	16
Clarke	384	281	40
MacGregor	312	247	26
Parkinson	413	371	11
Wakeham	339	283	20
Newson	343	286	20
Patten	335	254	32
Brooke	195	269	-25
Gammon	389	281	38
Lamont	375	283	48
Howard	257	223	33
Rifkind	437	392	11

†Last year's figure. Government figures are recommendations.

Immigrants face huge payments in cotton mill town

By Ronald Faux

The community charge will hit Blackburn hard. The Lancashire mill town is one of the districts heading the list of those whose residents' domestic payments will rise most steeply under the new tax.

Final figures have yet to be announced by Lancashire County Council but Mr James Kennedy, director of finance for Blackburn, expects that every adult will face a demand for £365, an increase of more than 80 per cent on the previous rates burden if divided between all adults.

Labour-controlled Blackburn Borough Council says that the rises imposed by the community charge will be devastating and a two-fold calamity.

It says that they will squeeze resources to the town, making even harder the task of replacing the inadequate Victorian houses that were the reason for Blackburn's low level of rates, and that they will put an impossible burden on Asian families occupying them.

In Balcarra Street and Inkerman Street, the impact of the new system is only now being understood. The steep, stone terraces built by the cotton mill owners for their workers were cheap homes for waves of immigrants who came to work in the cotton industry and who now represent 16 per cent of the population. The industry died but the immigrants remained.

Mr Gulam Sheth came from Bombay 20 years ago to work in a Blackburn mill. When

that closed he started a plumbing and hardware business. He lives above the shop with his wife and nine children. Three of his children are over 18, so his "rates" bill alone would be more than £1,800, plus whatever the business charge adds.

Mr Sheth added: "What some families will be asked to pay is beyond belief. These small houses are often shared. Some may have eight or nine eligible people in them."

Mr Kennedy said that there were complex reasons for the rise. The Government's notion of inflation was 4.8 per cent against a reality of 6.5 to 7 per cent. The net result of the change appeared to be a cut in grant to Blackburn of £9 million, or 11 per cent.

There were extra costs imposed on the council of £340,000 in community charge benefits, an obligation to pay off debts, over and above the normal provision, of £238,000 and changes in housing clearance subsidy that would cost £157,000.

"In addition, there is the cost of running the community charge itself, which every one agrees is very expensive," he said.

Mr Peter Greenwood, leader of the council, said the net charge of £365 took into account all that the town was likely to receive from grants and the contribution from the so-called safety net.

"The poll tax and the old rating system are not comparable. The Government support to Blackburn will be cut substantially," he said.

Rare jug found by TV show is star of ceramics auction

By John Shaw

A pottery owl called Ozzie, star discovery of *Antiques Roadshow* on BBC1 tomorrow, will be offered at auction at Phillips in London next week with an estimate of £20,000 to £25,000.

Every collector's dream came true for a couple who queued with other hopefuls to have their family treasures examined by *Roadshow* experts visiting The Derrig Centre, Northampton.

The owl, a rare Staffordshire Slipware jug and cover dating from the early 18th century, had stood by the fireplace and sometimes doubled as a flower pot.

The body of the bird was modelled in red clay and decorated with a dip of marbled cream and shades of brown. The head is detachable and is a drinking cup. The eyes are edged with white dots.

Few examples of these owl jugs survive. It is thought that the design originated in Germany and was the inspiration of potters such as the family of Thomas Toft at the end of the 17th century.

The programme was re-

corded some time ago and the couple were too overcome to think about selling their new treasure at the time. But now they have decided to put it into



Ozzie, a pottery owl valued at up to £25,000.

an auction and it will be the star piece in a ceramics sale at Phillips on Wednesday.

Archibald Thorburn (1860-1935) stole the show at Christie's sale of bird drawings, watercolours and pictures, which made £492,888 (10 per cent unsold). Work by the artist, who specialized in finely detailed studies, particularly of game birds, took the top ten lots.

"The close of the season", showing grouse on a moor and signed and dated 1918, equalled the artist's record at £41,800 (estimate £20,000 to £30,000), and a pencil and watercolour drawing of a woodcock, signed and dated 1895, made £20,900 (£10,000 to £15,000). "Pheasants", signed and dated 1922, fetched £18,700 (£10,000 to £15,000).

Sotheby's had a good middle-range English furniture sale totalling £403,238 (15.9 per cent unsold). The top lot, a George II walnut tallboy, circa 1730, went to a private buyer for £10,780 (£4,000 to £6,000). A George III white-and-gilt shield-back armchair made £9,900 (£4,000 to £6,000).

Worry for employers with live-in staff

By Tim Jones, Employment Affairs Correspondent

Thousands of people, from Army generals to vicars, are to be protected from the full effects of the poll tax, and employers claim that this will increase wage demands, further undermining the Government's anti-inflation strategy.

Others will be worse off, including, according to their federation, policemen living in section houses and married quarters whose rates have been paid by the constabularies.

Introduction of the tax in England and Wales will create financial difficulties for a range of employers providing "live-in" accommodation, including the Ministry of Defence, the Church of England, hotels, and public schools.

An analysis by Incomes Data Services says current estimates suggest that the tax will add between 0.5 per cent and 1 per cent to the retail price index in April.

The Church of England will be particularly hit, with Church Commis-

sioners having to find another £8 million to meet the poll tax charges for 11,000 clergy living in parsonages.

The commissioners said that partly because of the added burden, they had suspended a £33 million project to improve poor-standard houses, although the Church is getting an extra £3 million from the Government for upkeep of churches and relief on office taxation.

Previously, because of charitable status, rates on parsonages were very low. A £1,400 pay increase to clergy from this April includes £600 to enable them to pay the tax for themselves and their wives.

The tax could also add tens of thousands of pounds to Britain's defence bill following a decision that any of the 150,000 servicemen living in barracks or married quarters will not have to pay more than £52 a year above the average for all service accommodation. They will

be reimbursed any sum above that figure, yet to be worked out.

Later this month, the union leaders of more than 30,000 firm workers in "died" houses will demand a big pay increase for them to counteract the tax's effects.

According to the Independent Schools Information Service, teachers at boarding schools and other live-in staff will be taxed twice, because many occupy their own homes during holidays.

ISIS said: "Our representations to the Government have met only with the response that local authorities have discretionary powers. We believe it is inequitable for these staff who have to live in to be expected to pay the tax twice."

Incomes Data Services says that some hoteliers expect to pay the tax for "live-in" staff, and to extend an appropriate increase to other staff, adding to costs. There is concern that many, usually mobile, staff will not register.

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Promised Land refugees caught in political crossfire

Material has been removed from the following dispatch by the Israeli censor under new rules announced yesterday covering the immigration of Soviet Jews.

From Richard Owen
Gilo, Israel

"This is occupied land?" Professor Rafael Goldman's mouth dropped open. "I had no idea." He looked across from the modern Jewish settlement, built in blocks of golden Jerusalem stone, to the bare ridge opposite, once a Jordanian artillery position in the 1967 Arab-Israeli war. In between, screened by blossoming almond trees, lies the Arab village of Beit Safafa, whose inhabitants have become increasingly militant during the *intifada*, now in its third year.

"It looks peaceful to me," Professor Goldman said. "The people are friendly. But then I've only been here two weeks. You must forgive me; until I arrived I didn't even know what the occupied territories were. I hadn't even heard about the Jewish Settlers' Movement."

As US-Israeli tensions rise over the immigration issue, Western diplomats are increasingly concerned at what they see as the "misleading impression" being given by the Israeli authorities. According to official figures, less than 1 per cent

of the great exodus of Soviet Jews which began arriving here at the beginning of the year has chosen to live in the occupied territories. Most go to Tel Aviv or Haifa in Israel proper. Mr Yitzhak Shamir, the Prime Minister, has angrily accused "the enemies of Israel" of using the issue of occupied land to try to undermine immigration to Israel as such, a move he sees as a clear echo of attempts to prevent Jewish immigration in British-mandate Palestine.

But immigration officials acknowledge that on average 10 per cent of the new arrivals from the Soviet Union are settling in Jerusalem. Of these, most live in satellite Jewish suburbs such as Gilo, built "across the green line", in territory which has been annexed by Israel as part of Jerusalem — and is therefore not on the West Bank — but which is none the less regarded by most of the world as "occupied" under international law. On maps issued by the US State Department it is marked as "status to be determined". Diplomats fear that the gravitation of Soviet Jews towards these disputed suburbs will complicate the

peace process, with Jerusalem — by common consent the last problem which should be raised in negotiations — becoming an obstacle from the outset.

Yesterday tension between the United States and Israel over the peace process was heightened when Mr James Baker, the US Secretary of State, warned Israel that American patience had run out because "we've done pretty much all we can do". There are growing fears that American aid to Israel, now \$3 billion (£1.8 billion) a year, may be cut. Mr Shamir and the Likud Party have until Wednesday next week to accept a demand from their Labour coalition partners that Israel should agree to American proposals for peace talks with a Palestinian delegation which would include both Palestinian deportees and Arabs from East Jerusalem. Likud right-wingers refuse to have anything to do with any proposal which involves the status of Jerusalem, even indirectly.

Addressing the House appropriations committee on foreign operations, Mr Baker said bluntly that a US Government guarantee of \$400 million in loans to Israel to help absorb new immigrants would only be paid if Israel gave Washington firm assurances that the money would not be used "to create new

settlements or expand old settlements" over the green line. Mr Shamir, in a rare show of public anger with the United States, yesterday attacked this "linkage" as "totally unnecessary". The Israeli press said Mr Baker's tough remarks were making it even more difficult for Mr Shamir to persuade the Likud rebels to accept the peace talks terms when the inner Cabinet meets tomorrow, because they would accuse the Israeli leader of bowing to American pressure.

Some settlers' leaders argue that Israel should "proudly assert" its claim to land not only in the West Bank but also in Jerusalem, instead of "disguising the issue". At Efrat, on the West Bank just beyond Bethlehem, Jewish settlers have bought three square kilometres of rocky, olive tree-covered hillside to expand their settlement from 450 families to 5,000, in the hope of settling Russian immigrants. The Efrat settlers say they are on good terms with their Arab farming neighbours. Other settlements also within commuting distance of Jerusalem, such as Maale Adumim, which towers on the hills over the approach from Jerusalem to the Dead Sea, are beginning to act as dormitory towns and are building housing for Soviet immigrants. Some diplomats see

this as more of an issue than Soviet settlement at Ariel, near Nablus, where several dozen Russian families have moved in, causing the PLO to describe Soviet immigration as "an act of war".

In Jerusalem's suburbs, new immigrants are given £210 a month to meet the cost of renting a two-bedroom flat during their first year. This makes housing attractively inexpensive not only in Gilo but also in the four other Jewish satellite settlements across the green line: Ramot, East Talpiot, French Hill and New Yaakov.

Mr Teddy Kollek, the Mayor of Jerusalem, who has tried since 1967 to maintain tolerance in a united city under Israeli rule, said suburbs beyond the green line had all consisted of government land under Jordanian rule, much of it being previously unusable rocky terrain. No land had been bought from Arabs, he said.

Mr Kollek said that for Israel to settle Soviet Jews in the West Bank was "neither relevant nor practical if the territories are to be relinquished", but added that a "considerable number" of immigrants should be settled in Jerusalem "to strengthen it as the capital of Israel". Compared to the "tremendous financial benefits" offered to immigrants

settling in the West Bank, immigrants who lived in Jerusalem suburbs were given no greater inducements than those who chose to live in Tel Aviv, he said. The Jewish suburbs were built on land considered " unfit for grazing" under previous regimes, and "every tree was planted by us."

For Professor Goldman, a 53-year-old biochemist, Israel is above all a welcome refuge from anti-Semitism and lack of professional opportunity in the Soviet Union. He and others have come to Israel partly because the liberal policies of President Gorbachev have opened the door, and partly because the United States has imposed strict limits on immigration. "I just wanted to get out of Russia, and realized that it really was possible," he says. Professor Goldman's main preoccupation is to find work for himself and his 25-year-old son, Igor.

Others at Gilo such as Mr Viktor Savitsky, who arrived at the end of December, say they are grateful to Israel but, given the choice, would prefer to take their families to the United States. "To be honest, I chose Jerusalem for the climate," he said. "They say it is dangerous, but... there is more crime on the average Moscow street."

Leading article, page 11

UK ready to use tougher line to deter boat people

By Andrew McEwen, Diplomatic Editor

The British Government disclosed yesterday that it is prepared to take far more drastic measures than previously thought if a huge new influx of Vietnamese boat people arrives in Hong Kong.

A high-placed government source said the international community had been "put on notice" of its intentions, while another Whitehall source said Britain was prepared to "push the panic button" if forced to do so.

The annual "sailing season", when weather conditions favour the boats, is due to start now. The Government hopes that deterrent measures already taken will greatly reduce the numbers leaving Vietnam, but has prepared contingency measures.

It would immediately call an emergency meeting of the 29-nation International Conference on Indochina Refugees to approve the setting up of a large-scale rapid screening system in Hong Kong.

Those found not to be genuine refugees would be sent back, whether Vietnam consented or not. If hundreds could be sent back daily, possibly in ships or fleets of aircraft and buses. Instead of being held for months or years, as at present, they would be turned around in days.

Contrary to previous indications, the Government believes that the US Government would reluctantly acquiesce to such measures if there was a clear emergency. Whitehall and Hong Kong sources said that all 29 nations, including the US, agreed in principle to this procedure at a meeting of the Steering Committee in Geneva in January.

The meeting ended in a 27-2 deadlock over the timing of mandatory repatriation flights to Vietnam, with only Washington and Hanoi opposing a consensus. But the sources said this was a separate matter and did not affect the agreement on an emergency procedure.

The Government believes

Vietnam would find it difficult to turn away its own people if faced with an agreement carrying international approval. But if it did, Britain would consider the still more drastic step of abolishing the policy of "first asylum", under which boat people have a right to land in Hong Kong. The policy was agreed by the same international body in 1979, but is unpopular in Hong Kong.

This would be a last resort and might lead to condemnation from the United States and some European nations. No indication has been given as to how it would be enforced, but it would inevitably mean turning boats away, possibly using naval launches to force them out to sea.

The Government hopes that none of this will be necessary. Official sources emphasize that the numbers arriving so far this year have been much lower than last year. They believe the mandatory repatriation flight last November, when 51 people were sent back against their will, has discouraged many people in what was North Vietnam, though it has had less effect in the south. It also says that Hanoi has tried to spread the word that Hong Kong is no longer a safe bet.

But its optimism is open to question, because the picture will not be clear until late March or early April. The urgency with which it has been pressing Hanoi to agree to more mandatory flights implies strong concern. Britain sees mandatory flights as a far better deterrent than voluntary ones.

The timing of Britain's tougher line may be linked to a visit by Sir David Wilson, Governor of Hong Kong, due to arrive on Thursday for talks with Mr Douglas Hurd, the Foreign Secretary. There is resentment in the colony against the boat people.

One of Sir David's aims will be to secure a big British contribution to the cost, estimated at £90 million this year, of running the detention centres.

Ethiopian planes hit food stocks

By Daniel Treisman

Ethiopian government planes dropped napalm on civilians and food stocks last month after the northern port of Massawa fell to rebel forces, according to an aid worker who recently returned from the country.

The claim was made after Ethiopia appealed on Thursday for donations to airlift food to the drought-stricken province of Eritrea amid fears that the escalating civil war in the north could mean starvation for up to four million people.

Aid workers and officials are already saying that failure to get aid to the highlands of Eritrea and Tigré could lead to a repeat of the famine of 1984-1985 in which up to one million Ethiopians died.

Miss Susan Watkins, an official of Oxfam Canada who visited Massawa between February 18 and 20, said that of 65 civilian casualties in a hospital in the port 25 were suffering from napalm burns. Others, including children, said they had been shot by government soldiers as they tried to escape.

"The Government dropped napalm and destroyed at least two warehouses that I saw and set three stockpiles of grain on fire," Miss Watkins said. "It was clear that food aid was a target in the bombardment."

MiG fighter-bombers also dropped napalm on sparsely wooded areas 12 miles outside the port where civilians were sheltering for days after the town was captured, according to survivors interviewed by Miss Watkins.

Up to 50,000 tons of food was believed to be in Massawa before it fell to the Eritrean People's Liberation Front (EPLF) on February 10, cutting off an enclave of government-controlled territory around Keren and Asmara from supply by sea.

The Ethiopian Government had agreed in January to a pilot scheme for church relief agencies to send food into northern Tigré by road from Massawa. This was stopped after the EPLF attack.

Relief agencies believe about 1.9 million people in Eritrea and 2.2 million in Tigré face famine in the coming months. The EPLF is now believed to hold most of Eritrea, while the Ethiopian People's Revolutionary Democratic Front, which includes the Tigré People's Liberation Front and the smaller Ethiopian People's Democratic Movement, controls Tigré and large parts of Gondar and Wollo provinces.

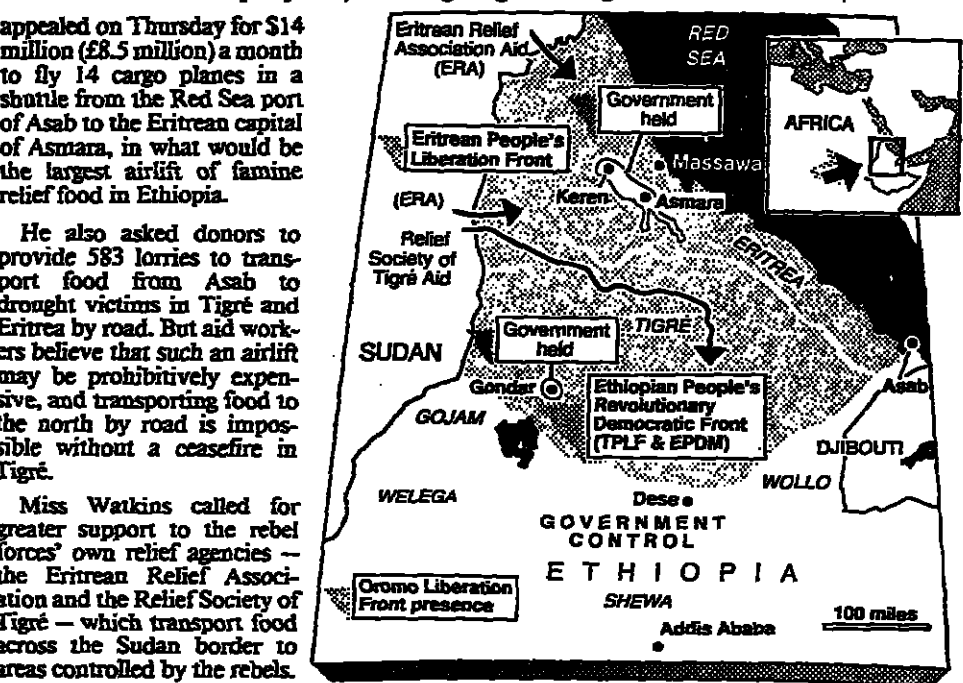
Mr Yilma Kassaye, the head of the Ethiopian Government's Relief Commission, appealed on Thursday for \$14 million (£8.5 million) a month to fly 14 cargo planes in a shuttle from the Red Sea port of Asab to the Eritrean capital of Asmara, in what would be the largest airlift of famine relief food in Ethiopia.

He also asked donors to provide 583 lorries to transport food from Asab to drought victims in Tigré and Eritrea by road. But aid workers believe that such an airlift may be prohibitively expensive, and transporting food to the north by road is impossible without a ceasefire in Tigré.

Miss Watkins called for greater support to the rebel forces' own relief agencies — the Eritrean Relief Association and the Relief Society of Tigré — which transport food across the Sudan border to areas controlled by the rebels.



Church militant: A Coptic priest, who is fighting in the Tigré rebel ranks with cross and rifle.



Kashmir curfew after shootings

Srinagar (Reuter) — An indefinite curfew was imposed on Kashmir yesterday after up to 40 people were killed in demonstrations against Indian rule of the country's only Muslim-majority state. Exactly how many died and what prompted security forces to open fire during Thursday's demonstrations were still disputed yesterday, but the government of Jammu and Kashmir state, whose summer capital of Srinagar was the venue of the anti-Indian protests, said 15 people were killed when security forces opened fire to defend themselves from stone-throwing crowds.

However, hospital doctors said they had seen 25 bodies, while a police officer said 40 people had died in the bloodiest event by far in the campaign against Indian rule. India claims the campaign is orchestrated by militant groups armed and trained by Pakistan.

Nepal general strike

Kathmandu (Reuter) — A general strike that Nepal's banned political parties called to back their campaign for multi-party democracy virtually shut down the city. Police saturated the capital, but little violence was reported. The Nepalese Congress Party, which heads the Movement for the Restoration of Democracy along with communist parties, claimed the strike was successful in most towns.

But the Government of King Birendra, aged 44, has shown willingness to alter the political system. It says that in a country sandwiched between India and China parties would be influenced from abroad. Political parties were outlawed 30 years ago, as the Himalayan kingdom moved to a partyless system of elected councils.

New Kaifu challenge

Tokyo — The attack on Mr Toshiki Kaifu, the Japanese Prime Minister, widened yesterday when a senior leader of his own Liberal Democratic Party asked him to clear up allegations that he got twice as much in donations from the disgraced Recruit company as he initially acknowledged (see Joseph writes). The call by Mr Michio Watanabe, who was snubbed earlier this week when Mr Kaifu refused to include one of his allies in the new Cabinet, is seen as a shameful move by Mr Watanabe — who has his eyes on the Prime Minister's job — to oust Mr Kaifu. Mr Kaifu again denied claims made in *Shukan Bunshun*, a weekly magazine, that he received 26.3 million yen (£105,622) from Recruit, not 14.4 million yen as stated earlier.

Ivory Coast clashes

Abidjan (Reuter) — Police fired tear gas at high school pupils and beat civil servants in protests in the Ivory Coast yesterday. The protests began two weeks ago with demands for university reforms but spread to workers opposed to austerity moves which could cut salaries by 40 per cent.

The demonstrations pose the most serious challenge in three decades to President Houphouët-Boigny, aged 84, who has ruled since independence. Many diplomats and businessmen expect them to intensify next week when the Government announces its decision on wage cuts. The Ivory Coast, with its fortunes built by its main export of cocoa, is in an economic tailspin caused by plummeting world prices for commodities.

Officer sues Zsa Zsa

Los Angeles (Reuter) — Mr Paul Kramer, the 6ft 4in Beverly Hills policeman who was slapped by Zsa Zsa Gabor when he stopped her Rolls-Royce, filed a \$10 million (£5 million) lawsuit against her here on Thursday, accusing her of causing him emotional and physical distress. A lawyer for the officer alleged that Gabor, eight-times married, had appeared on numerous radio and talk shows in recent months and had engaged in a malicious and vindictive campaign to defame his client. The star was sentenced last October to spend three days in jail, fined \$12,000 and ordered to serve 120 hours in a shelter for homeless women for slapping Mr Kramer. She was also ordered to put her true age on her driving licence. She claims she is 59.

In Nicaragua guns still count more than ballot boxes

Sandinistas close ranks against change

From Charles Bremner, Managua

Dozens of young soldiers were reported yesterday to have deserted from the Nicaraguan Army as the defeated Sandinista Government negotiated with advisers of Señora Violeta Chamorro, the President-elect, on the fate of the left-wing forces.

The teenage conscripts were said to have fled their units in the mountains where the Sandinista Popular Army (EPS) is still fighting the Contra rebels. The EPS denied the desertions, but the young men's relatives said they felt no further obligation since Señora Chamorro had promised to end conscription after taking office on April 25.

The reluctance of the United States' proxy army to lay down their arms after the election victory of the US-backed UNO coalition has complicated the delicate task of persuading the Sandinistas to relinquish control of the army. The issue of who controls the 100,000-strong forces, the region's biggest, is dominating the transition talks between General Hum-

berto Ortega, the brother of President Ortega, and Señora Chamorro's team.

For many officers taking orders from allies of the insurgents is an unthinkable affront. Deeply despondent, they are joining a groundswell of defiance among Sandinista loyalists towards the results of last Sunday's election.

"Tell Daniel he is not alone. We are awaiting his call to take up arms in our defence," Señora Carmen Vallejo, an office worker from León, speaks for many Nicaraguans who believe the AK-47 Kalashnikov rifle remains their best recourse for avenging the "betrayal" of their revolution in last Sunday's elections.

In the years when the US was expected to invade what it viewed as a Soviet beachhead, Nicaragua's Sandinista regime distributed tens of thousands of weapons to its citizenry. Retrieving them from militants is just one of the daunting tasks facing Señora Chamorro's administration.

In leaflets passed around Managua this week, the Brigades for the Defence of the Revolution, a sort of party-run Home Guard, instructed: "Do not hand over the people's weapons to the Somocista guard and assassins of the people."

Señor Lenin Cerna, the hardline director of the state security service, summed up what he said was the attitude of many in the party.

"There is going to be a new government but you cannot change the regime. I will never obey the orders of Violeta." He predicted that the Sandinistas would never turn over their weapons to UNO.

The Sandinista front remains by far the most powerful force in the country and enjoys the loyalty of thousands of highly motivated senior officers in the armed forces, police, public service and media.

Many have no time for "bourgeois democracy", believing their party retains a historic mandate, Bolshevik-style, to transform the nation into a workers' state.

Although Sandinista leaders are urging their supporters to respect the election result, the spectre of armed insurrection is one of many factors that will force the new government to concede a share of power. As *Nuevo Diario*, a pro-Sandinista newspaper, said: "This means the Sandinistas will remain a power the United States must reckon with."

President Ortega has laid down an ambiguous strategy that raises doubts about his intentions of becoming a loyal opposition. He has promised to resist any dismantling of his revolutionary reforms and to preserve Sandinista control of the armed forces, all within the framework of the constitution. "We will be a constructive but belligerent opposition," he said.

Diplomats believe Señora Ortega will hand over executive and government power

but use the Sandinistas' strength to disrupt UNO's plans, just short of prompting international condemnation.

The new government recognizes that it must tread delicately. Señor Arturo Cruz, a UNO adviser who served as a minister in the early Sandinista government and then became a political leader of the Contra rebel army, said Señora Chamorro should keep the Sandinistas in a key position in the armed forces and in certain ministries — particularly in agrarian reform.

Many in the new administration believe that, if they can handle things delicately, the loyalty of the Sandinistas will gradually erode.

Another view holds that the election defeat could prove the Sandinistas' salvation. It allows them to shed the compromises of power and return to their revolutionary ideals. Señor Cruz said he believed President Ortega's moral standing had "skyrocketed" with his graceful acceptance of defeat this week.

ANC returns Mandela to the anti-apartheid helm

From Ray Kennedy, Johannesburg

Mr Nelson Mandela was elected deputy president of the African National Congress in Lusaka yesterday, paving the way for him to take over as president from Mr Oliver Tambo, who is in a Stockholm nursing home after suffering a crippling stroke late last year.

The decision, announced after a two-day meeting of the ANC National Executive Committee in the Zambian capital, makes Mr Mandela effectively the ANC's leader.

At the same time the executive announced that it was seeking immediate talks with the South African Government about the release of all political prisoners.

It said it welcomed the "positive response" by President de Klerk so far but declared: "It is also of vital importance that the Pretoria regime moves without delay to remove all other obstacles standing in the way of negotiations."

Mr Walter Sisulu and Mr Govan Mbeki, ANC veterans who were freed from life imprisonment in South Africa last year in advance of Mr

Mandela's release last month, have been appointed members of the executive.

The ANC is to move its headquarters to Johannesburg without delay, the statement said, and regional and local offices will soon be set up elsewhere in South Africa.

● Exiles return: The first ANC members to return home

Johannesburg — Five white prisoners at Pretoria Central, the maximum security prison, yesterday showed solidarity with hundreds of black convicts on Robben Island, near Cape Town (Nicholas Beeson writes). They went on hunger strike to demand the immediate release of all political prisoners in South Africa.

to South Africa since Mr de Klerk lifted the ban on the organization arrived to a heroes' welcome yesterday.

Miss Ray Alexander, aged 76, a veteran activist, and her husband, Mr Jack Simon, 83, were greeted at Jan Smuts airport, near Johannesburg, by about 500 ANC supporters and family members, many of

whom they had not seen for a quarter of a century.

The frail couple emerged into the arrivals hall after their flight from Lusaka with clenched fists held high and blowing kisses to the cheering crowd. There was a heavy police presence at the airport, but no reported incidents.

"This is a great and joyous occasion. We must see that the breakthrough in South Africa is widened and our people take over power in a peaceful and orderly manner," Miss Alexander said. She was banned from union activities by the Government in 1953.

Mr Simon was a lecturer at the University of Cape Town before being banned in 1965 from writing for publication or attending public meetings. The couple left the country soon afterwards.

During his years in exile Mr Simon has been a key figure in formulating the ANC's constitutional guidelines for a post-apartheid South Africa.

The couple have been offered honorary fellowships at the University of Cape Town's Centre for African Studies.

CHANGING FACE OF EUROPE

Pledge of exchange rate parity boosts East German mark

From Ian Murray, East Berlin

The strength of the once despised East German mark grows daily with the belief that it will by the summer be exchanged at parity with the Deutschmark of its powerful West German neighbour.

The illicit money-changers in the Alexanderplatz here or round the Zoo railway station in West Berlin are now eager to buy up the tiny East German notes which were for so long regarded as little more than Monopoly money.

In recent days the black-market exchange rate for the Ostmark has soared. When the Berlin Wall opened last November the money was changing hands at a rate of 20 Ostmarks to DM1. Today the going rate is one to five, with some dealers offering no more than four Ostmarks.

The reason is that Herr Helmut Kohl, the West German Chancellor, who surprised the West German banking world by suddenly announcing his plan for currency union between the two Germanies last month, now says he is "sympathetic" to the idea of a one-for-one exchange rate and wants it to happen as soon as possible after the election.

Herr Kohl promised a cheering crowd of 200,000 in Karl-Marx-Stadt on Thursday evening that a currency exchange rate would be brought in which would take social considerations into account.

Bild, which has been very accurate in its scoops on East Germany in recent months, yesterday announced that the parity exchange rate would begin on July 1.

What has won the Chancellor's sympathy is the plight of small savers, who between them have amassed a total of 177 billion Ostmarks. Although the average monthly pay here is only 630 Ostmarks, high subsidies on basics have left people with little on which to spend, so they have kept their cash in banks.

Now the Chancellor and his Cabinet accept that it would be very unfair to penalize these millions of small savers by devaluing their life savings.

Herr Otto Föhl, the president of the Bundesbank, however, remains very unhappy

about it. He was dragged by the Chancellor into agreeing to work for currency union much against his will and now feels he is being forced to finance an exchange rate in a way which will undermine the strength of the D-mark and risk starting an inflationary spiral.

"A mark of the German Democratic Republic is not worth a D-mark and the idea that we exchange everything on a one-for-one basis is somewhat naive," he told *The New York Times* this week. "But it is psychologically and politically very powerful because people in the GDR are afraid of losing their savings... We just have to be clear about one thing. The better it is for the savers, the worse it will be for creditors — and they have those in the GDR, too."

Kohl reassures leading US rabbi

New York — The West German Chancellor, Herr Helmut Kohl, has written to a leading American rabbi to allay Jewish fears about German reunification. (James Bone writes.) In a letter to Rabbi Marvin Hier, Dean of the Simon Wiesenthal Centre for Holocaust studies in Los Angeles, Herr Kohl said that East Germans were fed up with communism and "immune to any new totalitarian temptations". He also stressed that West Germans had left the Nazi era behind.

cause people in the GDR are afraid of losing their savings... We just have to be clear about one thing. The better it is for the savers, the worse it will be for creditors — and they have those in the GDR, too."

If *Bild* is again correct, the savers will initially be allowed to change only a limited amount at parity. A figure of DM1,000-2,000 has been suggested. The remainder of their money would have to remain in Ostmarks, earning D-mark interest, being unfrozen when it makes sense to do so.

The next round in the talks on currency union takes place in Bonn on Monday.

● **Bewildering choice:** East German voters, who could only pick communists or their allies when they went to the polls last May, will be faced with a bewildering choice for the election to be held tomorrow fortnight. New parties are

still being formed, but already the Volkskammer (parliament) has registered 38 parties and three others have announced they intend to contest seats.

No less than 12 of the fledgling parties have the word "democratic" in their title, and another seven are "socialist".

The Social Democratic Party, which uses both of the favoured words for its name, is shown by polls as being the most likely to emerge on top, with some predictions giving it more than 50 per cent of the vote. The party has been the swiftest to organize and rediscover its old power base in the country.

The more right-wing parties, grouped together with the help of Herr Kohl, as the Alliance for Germany, are basing their attack on the word "socialist", which was also in the title of the renamed communist party, now disguising itself as the Democratic Social Party, which claims it is offering a new kind of socialism.

The liberal parties, despite the popular support of Herr Hans-Dietrich Genscher, the West German Foreign Minister, have little obvious chance. They have, however, been alarmed by an offer from Mr Ronald Reagan, the former US President, to make a speech on their behalf in East Berlin.

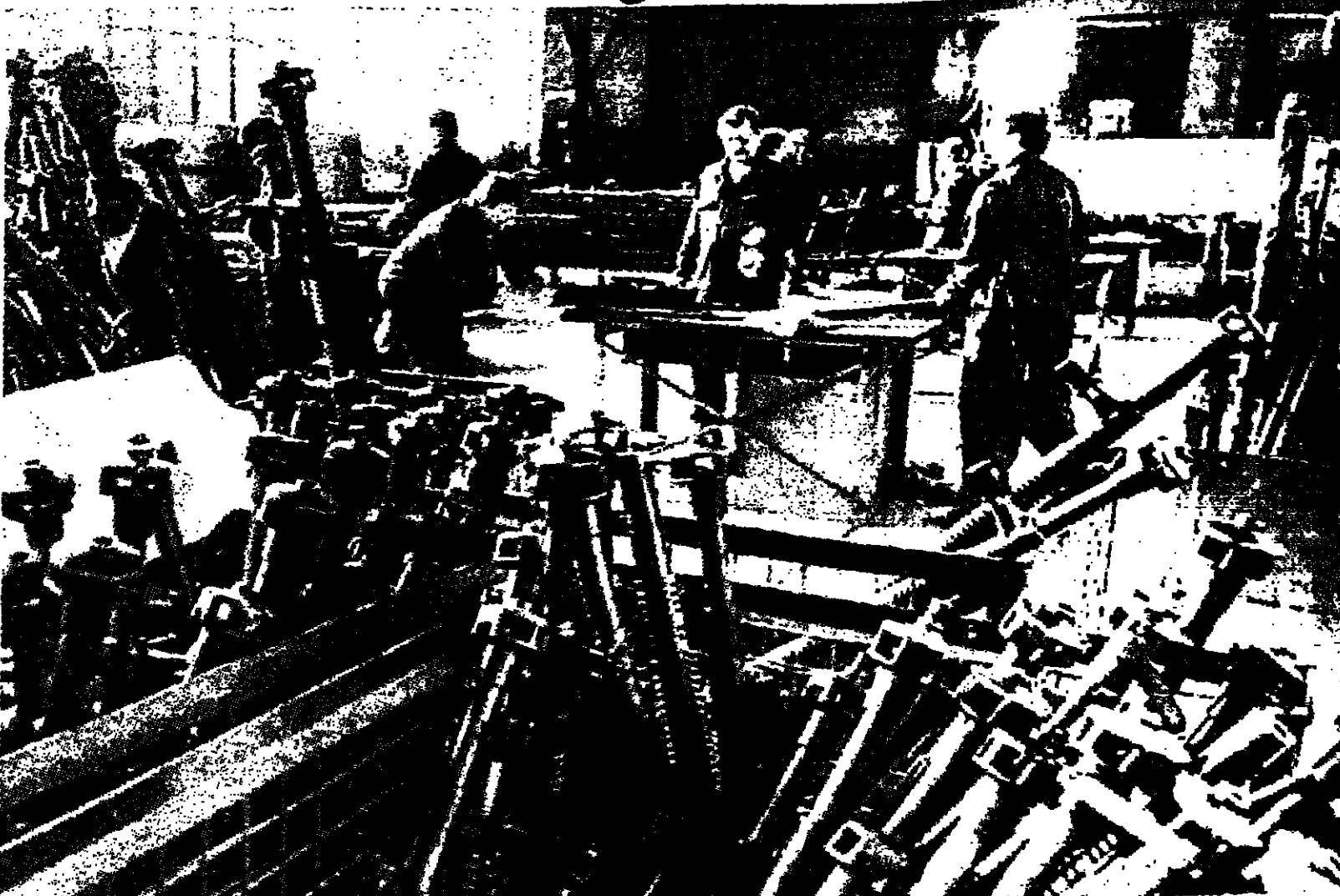
"Frankly, we do not think a man who threatened to bomb Moscow can be described as a liberal," a spokesman for one of the parties said.

New Forum, the opposition organization so prominent early in East Germany's peaceful revolution, has no real political experience and has formed a friendly alliance with like-minded parties campaigning as *Bürger für Bürger* (Citizen for Citizen).

The ecologists and the women's rights movement have got together to form a "green-lilac" federation, while the United Left has split into a complex of splinter parties.

One universally popular group is the "German Beer Drinkers' Union", campaigning for beer to be kept at present East German levels.

Guns of the militia go into the melting pot



On to the scrapheap: Files of redundant machine-guns being prepared for the smelters by workmen at the central workshop of the East German Interior Ministry at Schöenberg, near Magdeburg. The machine-guns were handed in to the authorities by members of the country's recently disbanded militia units.

Disgruntled town cuts free from past

From Anne McElvey, Plauen

Down in Plauen they are busy with the scissors again for the second time since the war. On a makeshift market stall in the centre of the town which nestles, neglected and self-absorbed, in the deep south of East Germany, just a few miles from the Bavarian border in one direction and the Czech border in the other, Herr Peter Brinker is selling West German flags to a mainly young clientele.

His wife is occupied at home picking out the stitches of the hammer and compass circle from the East German flag to render it West German. He regales the small crowd with a familiar tale. "My grandparents did the same thing in 1945 — cut the swastika circle away and, hey presto, the red flag." The locals guffaw at the recognition of a shared absurdity.

Plauen has always been one of the most disgruntled towns in the country, confining itself sullenly to the yoke of the communist party and considered best left to its own devices by the regional party leadership in Karl-Marx-Stadt, who were never able to orchestrate the ritual shows of socialist fervour among the population that were the norm elsewhere.

They are still disgruntled. Having chased the communists from office, the citizens of Plauen are now disappointed with the alternatives. "All the new parties are too soft on the Reds," says one young man wearing a T-shirt proclaiming "I am proud to be German". "What we need is

our pride back. We have been rotting here for 40 years."

He says he would vote Republican if he had the chance, adding that the "Red rats" — the standard term of reference here for the Government — have banned the extreme right-wing party from over the border.

His neighbour adds that the communists are still plotting for power.

"They should be hanged," he says and the crowd nod in agreement.

Only the German Social Union, whose election campaign consists mainly of posters announcing "freedom instead of socialism", inspires enthusiastic support here.

The majority of residents see the pace of reunification as tardy and appear to want it

today if not earlier. On a busy weekday one has the feeling that unity has already taken place without the official go-ahead. At the frontier queues of East German cars on one side are matched by queues of West German cars on the other. Few locals now bother with the once traditional weekend outing to Czechoslovakia now that the West is available.

Hoardings announce forthcoming concerts in the nearby town of Hof in the West, while Bavarian pensioners are brought in by bus from Ingolstadt and Bayreuth to drink coffee in tiny cafes.

In the market place, grocery stores have been set up offering oranges and tomatoes — exotic delicacies in the East German winter — to those

lucky enough to have Western currency to buy them.

Three cross-border marriages have already taken place since the opening in November.

Plauen is living proof that the political traditions of southern Germany outlive enforced conformity. The proximity to the Bavarian border places it under what Germans call the "white sausage line" — the parts of the country where the sausage and politics are better than in the more moderate north.

In an attempt to quell dissent the Volksarmee stationed its largest officers' school here some years ago, only to find that its recruits were constantly bullied and mocked by the locals. The Army withdrew last year.

Defector breaks 10-year silence

KGB 'studied plan to kill Pope'

From James Bone, New York

After a decade of silence, a previously unknown KGB defector has revealed the existence of a possible Soviet plot to assassinate the Pope.

Former KGB Major Viktor Sheymov, whose 1980 defection to the United States was until yesterday a closely guarded secret, said that in 1979 he saw a KGB cable signed by Mr Yuri Andropov, who was to become leader, asking for information about how to get close to the Polish-born Pope.

"Everyone knew what it meant," Mr Sheymov said in an interview with *The Washington Post*. It meant they wanted to assassinate the Pope.

Mr Sheymov also disclosed that the KGB considered whether its agents should try to break the legs of Rudolf Nureyev, the Soviet ballet dancer who had defected in 1961 and was continuing to make anti-Communist statements.

He also recalled hearing office gossip about KGB plans to kill another defector, Mr Yuri Nosenko, who crossed to the United States in 1964. One possible murder plot involved putting a poison needle on the

seat of Mr Nosenko's car. Mr Sheymov's information may help to resolve the great debate in Western intelligence agencies about whether Mr Nosenko was a false defector planted by the KGB.

Mr Sheymov worked in the Eighth Chief Directorate, which handles communications intelligence and is probably the most sensitive part of the KGB.

He said that his reason for speaking out was to be able to comment on Soviet-American relations and because "no secret lasts forever. This one lasted 10 years, and that's enough."

"The peculiar thing about me was that I was in the inner sanctum of the KGB, so I knew the whole system, including the Cipher system," he said.

Born in Moscow on May 9, 1946, the son of an engineer and a cardiologist, he attended one of Moscow's best schools and then studied at the elite Moscow State Technical University, where he went to "School M", a department specializing in missiles and spacecraft.

He left the university in 1969 to work on missile

guidance systems for a secret enterprise called the Central Scientific Research Institute No 50 of the Ministry of Defence, where he was involved in designing an infra-red guidance system for an anti-satellite missile fired from a spacecraft.

He left the institute in 1971, at the age of 25, and joined the KGB's Eighth Chief Directorate. In 1974, he was sent to the headquarters of the First Chief Directorate in Yasenevo, outside Moscow, which oversees KGB foreign intelligence operations. He



All Agca: Assassination bid linked to Soviet Union.

worked as a communications watch officer monitoring KGB message traffic and helping to prepare a daily intelligence summary for members of the Politburo.

Mr Sheymov was meeting the KGB general who officially headed the Secret Services Warsaw office in 1979, when the undercover station chief, a Colonel Solov'yev, arrived saying he had received an urgent cable from Moscow.

The cable said: "Obtain all the information possible how to get physically close to the Pope." It was signed by the then chief of the KGB Mr Andropov, who succeeded Leonid Brezhnev as Soviet leader in 1982.

Mr Sheymov recalled that the KGB general complained to his two colleagues: "If we do that, we'll have to kill them all (the Poles) or get out of here."

The KGB has previously been linked to the May 1981 attempt on the Pope's life by Mehmet Ali Agca, through the so-called "Bulgarian connection" which speculates that the Bulgarian Secret Service employed Turkish organized crime to kill the Pontiff with the Soviet Union's blessing.

Hungary bugging inquiry unveils party surveillance

From Ernest Beck, Budapest

Mr Miklos Nemeth, the Hungarian Prime Minister, and other leading members of the ruling Socialist Party, continued to receive secret reports about legalized opposition parties from the Interior Ministry, even after Hungary adopted a new democratic constitution last October, a special parliamentary committee said yesterday.

The committee, investigating the "Danubegate" bugging scandal, suggested that Mr Nemeth, Mr Imre Pozsgay, the Minister of State, as well as Mr Matyas Szuros, the acting President, might still be receiving the covertly gathered information although the Interior Security Service has been officially disbanded.

MPs, most of whom were elected as members of the Communist Party, effectively blocked attempts to read out the entire report in Parliament. Instead, it is to be published in a small circulation government gazette.

Two opposition MPs, Mr Gaspar Miklos Tancs, a member of the committee, and Dr Eva Ballo, both of the Alliance of Free Democrats, walked out in protest after the report was quashed.

"We cannot pretend any longer that this Parliament serves the peaceful transition to democracy and we want to stress that under no circumstances can we tolerate this violation of the legal order," Mr Tamas said after leaving the chamber.

He added that those who had advocated reform in the past obviously did not recognize political morality and should withdraw from public life after the election.

Mr Nemeth, who is a candidate in the multi-party election set for March 25, gave a spirited defence of his actions but said he could not have known how the information he received had been gathered. He claimed that because of the enormous task of dismantling the one-party state he had overlooked the reorganization of the Interior Ministry, concentrating instead on the Defence Ministry.

Although Mr Nemeth accepted responsibility for the affair, he said that the Interior Secret Service was needed on several occasions after last October to investigate possible terrorist attacks, and rumours of a plot by former Hungarian Communist Party members to stage a military coup last November, with the

help of Romanian and Czechoslovak forces.

However, he said that most of the reports contained worthless information which eventually appeared in newspapers. "Our society has enough trouble and tension at the moment so let us put all of this aside," Mr Nemeth concluded, adding that he would not give up his political career.

The Danubegate affair, in which the Interior Ministry's Internal Secret Service bugged the telephones and flats of prominent opposition leaders and planted "moles" to spy on opposition party meetings, has already led to the resignation of the Interior Minister and other top ministry officials.

But opposition parties were hoping to reveal with the parliamentary report the full extent of continuing surveillance activities being carried out by the Government, which is now supposed to be completely separate from the former Communist Party.

The scandal is likely to remain a big campaign issue as many opposition parties are emphasizing the Government's corrupt past and the need for a complete purge of the old regime.

Mr Nemeth, who is a candidate in the multi-party election set for March 25, gave a spirited defence of his actions but said he could not have known how the information he received had been gathered. He claimed that because of the enormous task of dismantling the one-party state he had overlooked the reorganization of the Interior Ministry, concentrating instead on the Defence Ministry.

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Czech eye on place in EC sun

From Michael Binyon, Brussels

Czechoslovakia yesterday threw its support behind the call for a clear guarantee in Bonn of East Germany's border with Poland, and said Poland had a right to take part in meetings where its own interests were discussed.

Mr Jiri Dienstbier, the Czechoslovak Foreign Minister, said the "two plus four" discussions on German reunification should be only preliminary, and the issue should be settled in the framework of the Helsinki process. This should also not only ratify the borders in Europe and the end of the Cold War, but create new European institutions.

He said German reunification should be the instrument for speeding up the process of European unification and called all the various proposed solutions for a unified German membership of Nato "artificial".

The two alliance structures no longer corresponded with necessity, he said. A new security framework had to be worked out by the 35-nation summit of the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe.

Mr Dienstbier spoke after talks here with commission officials on a new, more broad-ranging agreement between Czechoslovakia and the European Community. He emphasized that his country's long-term goal was full membership of the EC — "all of us should be members of one European Community," he said.

He and Mr Zdenek Pierek, the Deputy Foreign Minister, denounced the continuing Western restrictions on high-technology exports imposed by the Co-ordinating Committee for Multilateral Export Controls (Cocom), but said they were pleased by recent positive gestures by the United States.

The EC announced yesterday that Czechoslovakia would be given the special aid already given to Poland and Hungary. But Mr Pierek said his country did not need the same help as it was in a different situation. It wanted educational aid, management training, environmental co-operation and structural adjustment of its economy.

Hard times shatter dream of Eastern bloc's boat people

From Roger Boyes, Warsaw

Hai and his girl friend are on the run. At the Mekong central restaurant, a friend of a friend of the waiter, knew how to contact him so we drove out to Ursynow, a tower block suburb with the soul of an insect.

"Hey, Hai," shouted the interpreter through the closed door. Hai is a demobbed Vietnamese soldier. As such he won priority on the list of Vietnamese allowed to work in Eastern Europe, the dream ticket for 200,000 people fleeing the poverty and over 20 per cent unemployment.

Will these 200,000 become the new "boat people" repatriated by the East Europeans, who no longer feel any great sense of socialist obligation to the poorest of Comecon partners?

Certainly the main employers — the Soviet Union.

Czechoslovakia, East Germany, Poland and Bulgaria — are watching closely the drama of repatriation from Hong Kong.

Hai would not come out. We left down the stairwell since the lifts broke some time last year, the year of revolution. Outside, near the rubbish skips, we waited for 20 minutes until Hai emerged and, seeing us, sprinted like a rabbit. In the end, wrestled down by his friend, my interpreter, he was prepared to talk for cigarettes.

Hai's girl friend was recruited with a batch of respectable middle-class girls to be a seamstress in central Poland. She is the daughter of a manager of a state-run factory, and her fellow seamstresses include the daughter of an actor and the wife of a surgeon. They are driven to work from a hostel to a Lodz

textile factory which is selling its cloths to Britain. The girls say that working conditions are bad — they cannot even move around on the shop floor and the Polish supervisors are too strict. The food is fatty and indigestible.

The managers say that they paid the girls' air fares, a three-month training course and provided warm clothes for winter. Their monthly salary is about 400,000 zlotys, or about £25 average for the textile industry. In Vietnam they would be earning about 40,000 dong (£6) a month.

All the girls were committed to sending back money to their families, but as prices have been increased again and again in Poland, so their wage packets have been squeezed. Now the salary barely covers food and cosmetics.

The girl made a run for it and found Hai who does, as

they used to say, a little bit of this and a little bit of that. At the moment he sells rice vodka on the black market, but other fugitives — that is Vietnamese who have broken their work contracts and who are running loose in strange countries — meddle with

● The main employers are watching closely the drama of repatriation from Hong Kong ●

prostitution, sell drugs, steal and repair cars. It is a long way from the original arrangement that bound the rich and poor members of the socialist community, a blend of self-interest and humanitarian instinct.

Vietnam, after its long, debilitating war with America, was deeply in debt to the

Soviet bloc and had a huge surplus of manpower. Many East European countries had manpower shortages — artificially created, it now emerges, by a central planning machine which bloated factories with under-employed workers. Deals were struck not only with Vietnam, but with Cuba and North Korea.

The *Gastarbeiter* arrived, lured by promises of vocational training and big wage packets. In East Germany, there are still some 80,000 Vietnamese, in Bulgaria about 10,000, in Czechoslovakia 40,000. In the Soviet Union, where the workers have been arriving since 1981, there are close to 80,000.

Disillusion swiftly set in. Wages, fixed by contract, do not keep pace with inflation which in the new post-communist era is more openly acknowledged. According to

Hai, managers exploit the Vietnamese, demanding longer working hours than for Polish workers. They live apart from Polish workers and can visit their families once every four years.

The workers have started to protest to Hanoi, and Vietnamese delegations have been arriving to renegotiate the arrangements with the host countries. Only East German factories seem to treat the Vietnamese fairly, giving them language courses and savings books.

But Vietnamese there say that, while their employers are good, the local shopkeepers and residents are becoming more hostile. On the walls of Vietnamese hostels in Leipzig, somebody has scrawled in letters two yards high *Ausländer raus* — foreigners out. In East Berlin, there has been at least one rape of a Viet-

namese worker and several brawls.

But the Vietnamese workers are stuck where they are, in the concrete blocks of Central Europe and far away from home. Unpleasant it may be, but there is little future for them back in Vietnam.

The official estimate of seven million unemployed out of Vietnam's total workforce of 35 million is probably understating the case. The Vietnamese economy seems to be improving. The exchange rate is more realistic, there have been serious cuts in state subsidies and defence spending and there are accelerating moves towards the market. But Poland is going through a similar upheaval.

The Vietnamese are thus caught between two societies in transit and, on the whole, Poland is the more comfortable.

CHANGING FACE OF EUROPE

Election apathy as mood of disillusion grips Soviet voters

From Mary Dejevsky, Moscow

The Soviet election campaign reaches its climax tomorrow, with polling in the Russian Federation, the Ukraine and Belorussia — amounting to nearly two-thirds of the Soviet population.

Official exhortations to vote — which have grown more excited by the day — have met with markedly less enthusiasm, however, than in last April's nationwide elections to the Congress of People's Deputies. "Fellow citizens," says one banner across Gorky Street, "the watchword of Moscow is realism, conviction and action."

Even an attempt to instil festivity by opening markets, hanging coloured flags and fusing the election with the public holiday for International Women's Day has had little effect.

Officials in Moscow reckon they will be fortunate if more than 60 per cent vote. This figure might not disgrace a Western democracy, but in the Soviet Union — where observers used to regard a turnout of less than 98 per cent as tantamount to a defeat — it is a disappointment to those with a stake in President Gorbachev's democratisation.

The change in atmosphere is blamed on voters' disillusionment with the novelty. In Moscow there had also been the additional Boris Yeltsin element, when crowds flocked to the maverick politician. This time Mr Yeltsin is standing in his home city of

Sverdlovsk in the Urals and charismatic candidates are few and far between.

Disillusion is setting in. Why vote, people ask, when shops are empty? Voting last spring did not make them fuller; it won't this year either.

In a few parts of the Russian Federation, and in both the Ukraine and Belorussia, the vote is made more interesting and less predictable by the popular fronts. The performance of Rukh, the Ukrainian Nationalist Group, will be closely watched to see how serious a challenge it will pose in coming months.

In the Russian Federation generally, the political spectrum is narrower and more conservative. An opinion poll in Moscow and Kirov found that 41 per cent considered better living standards a priority, while only 3 per cent wanted a greater say in decision-making and 30 per cent considered openness and free speech important.

So far as the candidates are concerned, a few espouse Russian nationalist views, some advocate economic autonomy (by which they mean an end to subsidies for other, especially Asian, republics) and all desire a more prosperous and influential Russia.

They differ on approving private property and putting law and order above democratisation, but they all want reform, greater prosperity, lower inflation and better provision of food and con-

sumer goods — without hinting how these might be achieved.

A report by the official Tass news agency yesterday said "opposition groups" were likely to win at least one third of the seats for the Moscow city council, but the definition of opposition is unclear.

Almost all the candidates are Communists, some adhere to the radical, Yeltsin wing of the party, others object to what they call Mr Yeltsin's demagoguery but would not call themselves adherents of Mr Yeltsin's ideological opponent, Mr Yegor Ligachov.

Informal groups have multiplied in the past two years, most more akin to discussion circles than to incipient political parties. They range from the extreme right — the various branches and offshoots of the shadowy Pamyat organization and monarchists — to the extreme left Radical Party and anarcho-syndicalists. In the middle are Christian democrats, liberal democrats, social democrats and a host of tiny informal associations.

They meet in private flats and offices around tea and biscuits — and try to get the world to rights, without any hope of obtaining the power to do it.

Groups with less centrist political aspirations have either found it impossible to participate in tomorrow's elections or have decided to boycott them.

Quest for truth on Katyn



Families of some of the 15,000 Polish officers killed in 1940 in Katyn protesting outside the Soviet Embassy in Warsaw yesterday to press Moscow to reveal the truth. Soviet police are believed to have been responsible for the massacre, blamed by Moscow on the Nazis.

Judge who tried the Ceausescus shoots himself

From Tim Judah, Timisoara

The judge who condemned the Romanian tyrant, Nicolae Ceausescu, and his wife, Elena, to death has committed suicide as the trial of a batch of Securitate secret police and militia officers accused of complicity in genocide opened in Timisoara.

Major-General Gica Popa, the head of the military tribunal that condemned the Ceausescus, killed himself on Thursday, Mr Teofil Pop, the Justice Minister, said in Bucharest yesterday.

General Popa shot himself in the heart with a pistol in his office at the ministry and died in hospital two hours later. Mr Pop said the general, who had headed the Bucharest Regional Military Court since 1987, had suffered a severe nervous breakdown.

"It was nothing to do with the Ceausescu case, it was something personal," the minister added.

Although the identities of those on the panel of judges who tried the Ceausescus had never been made public, a source said that General Popa had been troubled by anonymous death threats, apparently from Ceausescu loyalists.

Mr Nicolae Dide, the government spokesman, confirmed that General Popa's voice was the one heard on the video-recording of the Ceausescus' December 25 trial.

In Timisoara, the 21 men in the dock are accused of involvement in the violent suppression of the demonstrations that sparked off last

December's Romanian revolution. They are all former Securitate or militia officers.

The defendants include Major-General Emil Macri, the former head of Economic Counter-Intelligence in the Securitate; Colonel Traian Sima, the former head of the Timis County Securitate; and Colonel Ion Debeleanu, the former head of the Timis County Militia.

The defendants are accused of genocide, aiding and abetting genocide, and also of taking 40 bodies from the Timisoara mortuary to be cremated in Bucharest. This was done in order to cover up the extent of the killings.

Other charges levelled against the accused include some less serious ones connected with attempts to suppress the revolution here.

Yesterday's proceedings lasted just over an hour and consisted solely of the prosecutor reading the charges. The trial resumes this morning.

● BUDAPEST: The Romanian Securitate is continuing to carry out actions against Hungary and most of its agents remain in place, according to Colonel Lajos Nagy, the head of Hungary's secret service (AFP reports).

In an interview yesterday he said: "Our information proves that almost without exception, the members of the Securitate are still in place. They are not just waiting." Asked if this meant they were still carrying out actions against Hungary, he said: "Yes".

Aoun defies the Church

Beirut rocked by battle

From A Correspondent, Beirut

General Michel Aoun yesterday defied an excommunication threat and launched a second attack on militia posts of his Christian rival, Mr Samir Geagea. Hand-to-hand fighting was reported on the streets of east Beirut.

At dawn the general's Lebanese Army troops resumed their assault on militia positions. They showered residential areas in the Christian sector with hundreds of shells, in total disregard of a threat by Patriarch Nasrallah Sfeir, head of the Maronite Church in Lebanon, to excommunicate the warring foes. General Aoun and Mr Geagea are both Maronite Christians.

"We warn whoever orders the firing and whoever carries it out that they would be excommunicated," said Patriarch Sfeir. "They will be expelled from the Church and prevented burial according to church traditions."

Police reported that army regulars under General Aoun launched a second offensive against hardline Christian Lebanese Forces militiamen at dawn, following Thursday's attack on the militia headquarters in Karantina on Beirut's waterfront. Yesterday's assault, again supported by tanks and artillery, came from two axes, in Nabaa and Sin el-Fil in central Beirut.

Christian militia sources said four army battalions and several companies of commandos, supported by tanks and heavy artillery fire, were involved in the battle.

A police spokesman said General Aoun's US-made M48 tanks, which advanced to the edges of Nabaa on Thursday, were "trying to shoot their way" across the densely populated district.

"They are applying scorched-earth combat tactics. The whole district is on fire," he said.

Mr Geagea's experienced street fighters, entrenched in the narrow alleys of Nabaa and Sin el-Fil, were confronting the tanks with armour-piercing rocket-propelled grenades and 106mm recoilless cannons, he said.

General Aoun was trying a flanking move to avoid storming through Ashrafieh "which has become a fortified garrison for Geagea's militia on the highest hill in Beirut", the police spokesman said.

Police reported heavy fighting at noon for control of a high-rise building that overlooks the main street separating Nabaa and Sin el-Fil.

The 12-storey building "repeatedly changed hands", police said. "Commando units of Aoun's troops stormed it at first light. Geagea's militiamen took it back in a swift assault around 10am. By noon the Army was re-attacking it."

Military sources in west Beirut said the Army travelled several hundred yards into militia territory in Sin el-Fil and Nabaa districts, but fell short of capturing the Lebanese Forces headquarters and their main stronghold in Ashrafieh.

Police reported that the Army forces had closed on the militia's main base in Karantina, one of the general's principal objectives, through neutral territory controlled by the Lebanese Armenians in Bourj Hammoud district.

Witnesses said the advances by the Army occurred without fighting and that General Aoun's forces had come within shooting distance of the main junction leading to

the "War Council", the militia's headquarters.

The breakthrough came after negotiations between Armenian army officers working under General Aoun and their community leaders, to allow them access to their strategic neighbourhoods, security sources said.

The Lebanese Red Cross said it had pulled out 12 bodies from the battlefield and evacuated 50 wounded. It said five other corpses were still on the streets in Nabaa and Sin el-Fil. On Thursday at least 75 people were killed and 200 wounded.

More than 800 people have been killed and 3,000 wounded in the bitter power struggle between General Aoun and Mr Geagea over supremacy in the Christian enclave in central Lebanon.

Residents in east Beirut spent Thursday night in underground shelters and woke yesterday morning to the sound of artillery shells and the smell of gunpowder and burning rubber from at least 50 fires that blazed in the city throughout the night.

Military sources said Thursday's thrust had been a "warning" to evacuate Beirut "before the final and sweeping attack to drive the militia out of the capital starts".

They added that General Aoun's troops, bent on disarming the militia, wanted to reconnoitre Lebanese Forces defences before they moved to seize their headquarters, inflicting the least casualties possible.

General Aoun, already suffering from a shortage of arms and ammunition, is eager to capture the port of Beirut adjacent to the militia headquarters, so he can import supplies.

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Paradise lost as pollution assaults California coast

From Ivor Davis, Los Angeles

Southern California temperatures were in the high eighties last week, which would normally send residents scurrying to the shore seeking relief from the heat. But the miles of beaches in Los Angeles were virtually deserted. The once-pristine white sands have become an ecological nightmare. There is big trouble in paradise.

First, a British Petroleum tanker leaked nearly 400,000 gallons of crude oil into the ocean off Huntington Beach, to the south of the city. Then, while volunteers and BP employees were labouring round the clock to clean up the sludge, a heavy winter storm caused drains to overflow and sent eight million gallons of raw sewage gushing into the ocean at Santa Monica, one of the most densely populated beach communities here.

To make matters worse, the thriving Los Angeles harbour was also closed for 24 hours on Friday, and there was talk of evacuating thousands of residents when a toxic chemical leak was spotted coming from a freighter.

So the surfers have stayed home with their boards, the swimmers are sticking to pools, and only the occasional volleyball player, roller skater or biker has ventured down to the sea to enjoy the sunlight. It is also no longer

safe to go out at night in many areas of this sprawling community, and it has nothing to do with escalating gang shootings.

As the city sleeps, helicopters fly in formation overhead, spraying thousands of gallons of insecticides into the atmosphere in an attempt to wipe out a pest known as the Medfly which feasts on the peaches, grapes and plums California exports. Its proliferation could mean death to the state's principal industry, agriculture.

Scientists disagree on the effects of the insecticide Malathion on people. State officials claim it is safe, though they advise bringing pets indoors and covering the paintwork on cars parked outside when the chemical is scattered at night. But Los Angeles residents — assaulted from all ecological angles — have taken to the streets wearing breathing masks and skeleton costumes, and carrying placards demanding that spraying be stopped.

In response to the pressure, Los Angeles city council voted to go to court seeking an injunction to force the state department of food and agriculture to stop spraying until its safety can be determined. Four neighbouring cities have followed suit.

TIMES DIARY

SIMON BARNES

As this is the column for the sporting polymath, it is time to salute Kate Noakes, artist in residence at Middlesbrough Football Club. Her exhibition of sculpture resulting from this post is on show from today until the end of the month at Middlesbrough Art Gallery. An uncompromising figure in a welder's mask, Noakes has produced a series of works in forged steel "trying to capture the physicality of football — not portraits of players but movement in an abstract form".

Her spell at Middlesbrough FC was funded by Northern Arts, and backed by other bodies including the club. "I could not have produced the work I did if they hadn't made me feel so much at home," says Noakes. "I was able to set up and work on the pitch without any problems. The players who have seen the work were rather bemused at first, but I think they have liked what they have seen."

Sad news from Julie Krone, one of America's top jockeys — she has won more than \$26 million in prize money — and an old friend of this column. She has not ridden since breaking her arm in a riding accident in November and must now have a bone graft operation. "When I found out I almost went into shock," said Krone, a volatile lady famous for winning a fist fight with a male jockey. She has lost a hot mount for the Kentucky Derby in May but hopes she will be back on the track in June. "The first day I can climb on a horse and leave the paddock again I'll be smiling from ear to ear," she said.

Male drivers always feel they have failed a crucial virility test when they are overtaken by a lorry, but let me reassure them. Next weekend, there will be an assault on the world speed record for a heavy goods vehicle. The driver, Yorkshireman Brian Garnet, a truck-racing driver by profession, says: "We are setting our sights on breaking the 130mph barrier. But it will all depend on conditions on the day." The attempt takes place on Pendine Sands in Wales (and no doubt informally by other drivers on the M25 throughout the preceding week). Garnet will drive a Lucas VAC Leyland Roadtrain called Gertie.

BARRY FANTONI



That reminds me, our Keating has just been attributed to someone else

America's amazing one-legged schoolboy wrestler goes from strength to strength. Bill Flink has won 28 fights this season, without a single defeat, and is hoping to become champion of Stratford High School in Wisconsin. He aims to go on and win the state title "for my mom and dad". He fights on his knees, and exploits every advantage his unorthodox position can give him. Opponents reach around to grab his leg and it just isn't there," says his coach, Cal Tackles. Flink lost his leg in a farming accident five years ago, when he was 12. Usually he wears an artificial limb, but he removes it to wrestle. "I want to win bad. I like the feeling," he says.

The most alluring invitation of the week came from Barry Hearn, the snooker and boxing manager, who gave the writer the chance to meet a fighter called Chris Eubank, who has some punch-up or other next week. The message said beguilingly: "People call him arrogant, but Chris will give a few minutes of his time to discuss this fight and future plans." I was unfortunately prevented from going by a subsequent engagement.

The obits failed to mention that the late Leslie Ames was responsible for the England cricket team's last series win over the West Indies in the Caribbean. It happened when he was managing the side captained by C. Cowdrey in 1967-68. With four matches drawn, England won 1-3 thanks to a generous declaration by Gary Sobers. England were set 215 in two-and-a-half-quarter hours, and Cowdrey didn't fancy it. According to Ames, Cowdrey was nervous of Willie Rodriguez, the leg-spinner, "but I said we would never have a better opportunity". Cowdrey scored 71 in England's victory. Sobers was burned in effigy in Port of Spain, and Ames savoured the satisfaction of successful generalship.

At school we were always taught that "goodbye" really means "God be with you". Or once did. Now we have abbreviated the sentence and extinguished the sentiment. We have turned what once had meaning into a swift commonplace. The expression passed from full-length to a shorthand version, and finally to a usage which has forgotten even what the shorthand once stood for. It must be one of a score of such words.

Or actions. "Around the maypole frolics Miss Prism/Little knowing its symbolism." In Catalonia my nieces and nephews get their Christmas presents only after their grandparents have tapped on a log of wood — a perfunctory 20th-century reminder of some obscure pagan ceremony perhaps? No doubt historians will, likewise, know why Dame Jill Knight (or any other MP) has

The Government is said to be considering plans to "cap" the poll tax. This would be the ultimate absurdity in the tangled tale of local government reform. The purpose of introducing a flat-rate charge for local government services payable by every adult in the country is to make electors take responsibility for the things which local authorities do in their name.

If people want smaller classes in their local schools, or their dustbins emptied three times a week, and are prepared to pay accordingly, then let them vote in a council to do it. If, on the other hand, they are sceptical about the value that local representatives are giving for their money, then they should have the evidence and the incentive to vote them out. Either way, voters live with the consequences of their choice.

If it set a limit to local taxation, the Government would be denying the principle of local accountability. The logical next move would be to abolish local government altogether — something which advocates of central control over education appear to have recognized.

But, say the Government's political managers, the size of the changes which people are being

Rodney Lord, Economics Editor, cites Scotland's experience

Poll tax: just give it time

asked to face is proving deeply unpopular. Imposing a tax on people who did not pay one before was never going to be a vote-winner, and the local authorities are successfully pinning the blame on central government.

Even Conservative councils are having to levy embarrassingly high charges. There is a growing tide of concern on the Tory back benches that unless the Government acts to ameliorate the worst effects, the tax will be a serious handicap at the next election.

In any case, say the sceptics, the poll tax is not a good answer to the problem of local accountability. Every adult living in Coronation Street will now receive a bill (instead of just the head of households), but this does not necessarily mean they will be any more aware of what the council is spending than they were before. Wives have always been aware of the overall financial burdens on the household.

And, as before, the poorest will have their poll tax paid for them.

If the Government were able to start again, it might not choose to start from here. The attractions of the poll tax were simplicity, universality and visibility, but faced with the political disadvantages, ministers have already decided that parity of principle must be sacrificed to relief, safety nets and other devices to protect the citizen from too harsh an exposure to local accountability.

On that calculation the Government might have done better to swallow its rhetoric and opt for a local income tax, as the report of the committee of inquiry headed by Sir Frank Layfield recommended in 1976. But at this stage the Government does not have the option of starting again.

In any case, those who now say the Government should have kept the rates and abandoned any thought of local reform are forgetting the strength

of political pressure for change. In his closing words, Layfield referred to "many decades of uncertainty in the realm of local government finance". The Prime Minister himself first promised reform, then decided it was too difficult, then embraced the poll tax.

In Scotland, where the tax is already in operation, the political bitterness caused by its implementation was no greater than that caused by the last property revaluation for rating purposes. Indeed the revaluation in 1985, accompanied by public demonstrations and a torrent of complaint, made the Government decide that the poll tax would be the lesser evil.

A revaluation in England and Wales, now long overdue, would be even more painful, since revaluation in Scotland was carried out in three stages after 1973, whereas in England and Wales — where there is no obligation to revalue periodically — the whole burden of

adjustment would be felt at once.

Worried Tories south of the border should look more closely at the Scottish experience. No one would pretend that the poll tax has been popular in Scotland. At the last election, when it was one of the main issues, the Tory vote fell from 38 per cent to 24 per cent; but the principal complaint was that Scotland was being used as a test-bed by an "English" Conservative government — which hardly applies in the case of the poll tax in England and Wales. More important, the Government was then (as now in England and Wales) at its point of maximum vulnerability, with the legislation passed but before the tax was in operation.

Scotland's experience suggests that in a year's time, the atmosphere will be rather different. North of the border, they are just coming to the end of the first year of the tax, which was introduced one year ahead of England and Wales. Despite dire

predictions about the difficulties of collecting the tax, 99 per cent of the population have registered, and revenue is running at about 90 per cent of target, which is slightly better than with the rates. While the opposition parties are still trying to make some mileage out of the issue, it is no longer the dominant theme in Scottish politics.

Local taxation rose sharply in Scotland as councils switched from one tax to the other, just as appears to be happening in England and Wales. Local authorities are well versed in making use of the changes which Whitehall forces on them, and the Government is having to revise its estimates of the average poll tax rate with embarrassing frequency. But in Scotland, increases in year two of the tax are proving much lower. One regional council, Grampian, is even reducing its levy.

The real touchstone of success for this fundamental change in local government finance will be whether it achieves what it originally set out to do: increase local accountability. The full-scale trial in Scotland is at too early a stage for any firm conclusions to be reached about that yet, but the regional council elections on May 3 may provide some interesting evidence.

Peter Brimelow

Value amid the junk

New York
We had not read a newspaper for three weeks when we boarded the New York flight in late spring 1986. But I felt a premonition when I picked up a copy of *Newsweek* magazine. "Greed on Wall Street" its cover blared.

I was reading quietly when my wife looked over, saw a picture, and exclaimed: "Oh, there's Dennis! What's he doing there?" She seized the magazine — and went into a classic triple-take, like a comic character in a silent movie. For Dennis was Dennis Levine, one of her colleagues at the Wall Street firm of Drexel Burnham Lambert, then at the very peak (as it turned out) of its fearsome power.

She had told me about Levine's extraordinary coolness under the intense pressure of deal-making. It was more remarkable than anyone had realized. Levine had been making quick trips abroad to trade stocks on inside information. He, the authorities and his fellow conspirators had just played out a byzantine climax of detection, pursuit and betrayal.

When Drexel Burnham finally collapsed last month, it was easy to forget that the much-publicized insider trading scandals of 1986, which affected several other Wall Street houses, actually had nothing to do with the rather technical securities law charges for which the firm was subsequently forced to pay a huge fine and to abandon its most famous asset, the financier Michael Milken. In fact, Milken has still not been convicted of anything. And the market in high-yielding "junk bonds" which he invented and allegedly manipulated shows distinct signs of continuing despite his departure.

But no financial institution can ultimately withstand the mob psychology of a bank run, which is in effect what finished Drexel. And the relentless hostility with which the authorities reacted to the firm is a notable stain on America's image as a plutocrats' paradise. Another example: the recent jailing of New York hotelier Leona Helmsley, although aged 69 and a first-time offender, over a tax dispute so proportionately minor that it would normally be viewed as non-criminal.

Drexel Burnham has been America's great financial eruption of the age. In the heat it generated, many things might well have melted. Any overall comment must be cautious.

But the human drama was equally fascinating. Whatever else can be said about Drexel, its employees were very able and harder than people outside Wall Street realize. When my wife first joined, she was disturbed to find executives scheduling not one but two successive business breakfasts. Hesitation about a morning meeting was greeted with the reproachful reminder that "it's 5am on The Coast" — where representatives of Milken's junk bond factory,

which he had moved to his native California, would be listening in on the speakerphone. As a former freelance writer, she began to feel uneasily that a sign on her forehead was flashing the scandalous secret that she had not been out of bed before 10am for several years.

The firm also, at least in its prime, developed an extraordinary *clan*. The sheer power of money to motivate, sometimes underestimated in the salaried professions, is always a source of explosive energy on Wall Street, which lives on fees and commissions. But there was more to Drexel Burnham. Its chief executive, Fred Joseph — in many ways as remarkable a character as Milken — not only seemed to believe the personnel management claptrap he had imbibed at the Harvard Business School but actually made it — or something — work.

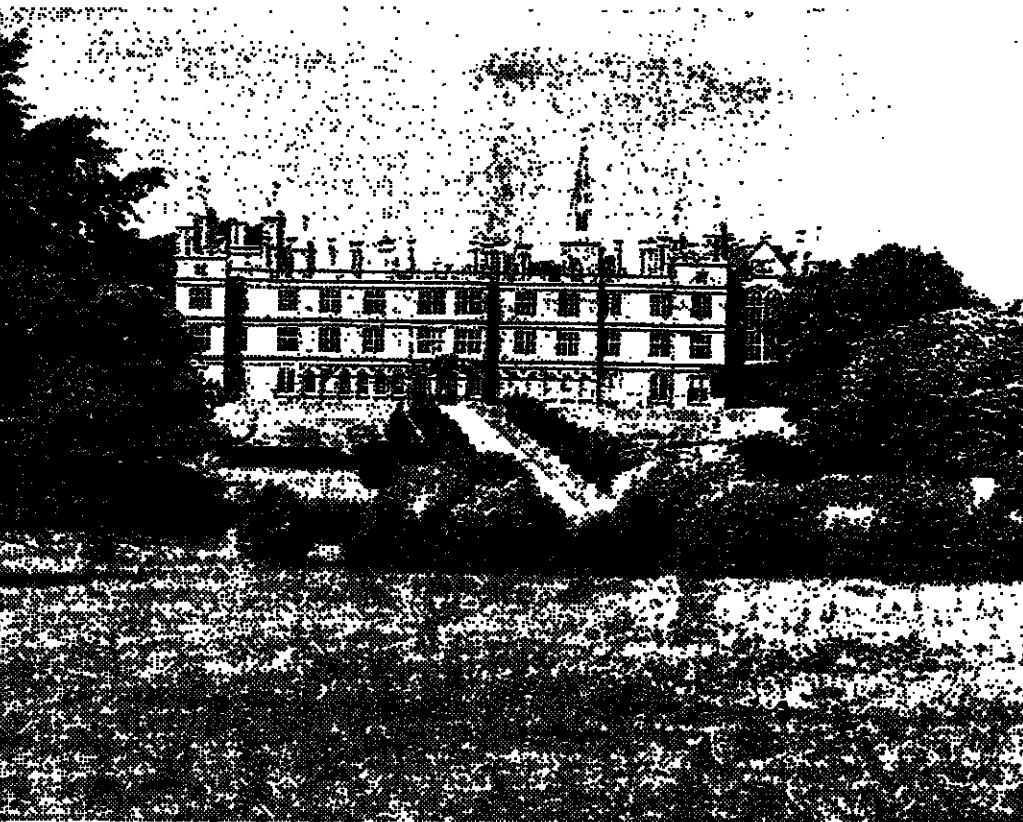
Thus it was several days before my wife realized that the great man was unpretentiously conducting the business of the firm from a desk only two or three feet from hers in the "bullpen" — the huge open office that is a feature of American financial institutions. Even at that time, some fairly hairy beasts roamed Drexel's corridors, but Joseph was somehow able to keep them from eating one another, at least in any generally demoralizing way, for a long time. By Wall Street standards, the firm was positively civilized — if only internally.

Some of Drexel's methods of building morale may not be transferable across the Atlantic. All Drexel retainers found themselves plastered with their employer's livery and slogans. As I write this, I am drinking herb tea from a mug emblazoned "DREXEL BURNHAM — NO GUTS, NO GLORY!" At one Christmas party, the firm's chairman, Robert Linton, got up wearing the stocking cap associated in New York with muggers and sang a skit entitled "Rudolph the Red-Nosed Proscenium" satirizing Rudolph Giuliani, the law-enforcement official who had made Drexel his personal crusade.

None of this, of course, staved off the horrible end. Now this little community is scattering to the winds, wheeling its possessions out of the office on castor chairs for want of trolleys, looking in groups or individually for new employers. At breakfast recently in Delmonico's, the Wall Street restaurant, no fewer than seven Drexel securities analysts could be seen animatedly trying to impress interviewers from seven different brokerage houses over their decaffeinated coffee.

In the 1960s, it was fashionable to worry that America's largest corporations formed an entrenched "technostructure" that could manipulate the economy. In the 1980s, Drexel-financed takeovers proved they were not entrenched. Somehow, no one was grateful.

The author is a senior editor of *Forbes* magazine.



Victim of insensitive planning: Burghley House will have a bypass running past its gate

Marcus Binney suggests a simple measure to preserve the parks of country houses from a rising tide of commercial development

increase in the asking price. The noble shell of the Elizabethan Clegg Hall stands in one of the finest stretches of unspoilt countryside to the east of Manchester. The walls are sound, and it could easily be restored as apartments by a building preservation trust. But now, we are told, Clegg Hall can be saved only if permission is given for a vast leisure park around it.

The massive increase in funds for road-building poses an equally grave threat to country house parks. One of the glories of Stamford — the finest town in the east of England — is the way it opens directly on to the great park of Burghley House. For generations, townspeople have had free access to this vast elysium. Now, the sudden sense of release one feels on entering the park is to be shattered by a new bypass, cutting through within yards of the gate and devised without thought for the beauty and history of the place.

Another recent proposal is for a motorway linking the M6 and the M56, which would cut right through the middle of the fine park of Mere Old Hall in Cheshire, the seat of the Brookes family since the Middle Ages. And at Reigate in Surrey, a new bypass proposed by the county council would separate the town from what has long been its park, the grounds of the Priory, sweeping down to a splendid lake.

Quite apart from providing the setting for some of our

greatest buildings, the parks of country houses are themselves important works of art. "What were known all over the world for a hundred years as English gardens", Lord Clark wrote, "were the most pervasive influence that England has ever had on the look of things in Europe."

The parks of country houses are often thought of as the creation of the 18th-century landscape movement, and considered worth preserving only if the names of Capability Brown or Humphry Repton can be attached to them. But many are much older, and historians are showing that ornamental lakes are in reality sometimes large mill ponds. "Parks there are in England, more than in all Europe," wrote Peter Heylyn in his *Cosmographie* in 1677.

The beauty of these parks lies in openness and extent, in their great expanses of grassland, uninterrupted by hedges or fences, where deer, cattle or sheep are free to roam at will. In contrast to the intimate domestic scale of much of the English countryside — of small fields, high hedges, narrow footpaths, streams and spinneys entangled in undergrowth — these parks introduce an epic element.

Historic buildings are protected by listing, and there is a whole range of statutory designations to protect the wider landscape: areas of outstanding

natural beauty, sites of special scientific interest, environmentally sensitive areas, green belt and national parks. But the Register of Parks and Gardens drawn up by English Heritage (and its equivalent in Scotland) has no legal force. In France, by contrast, there are *sites classés* as well as *monuments classés*, while the parks of Saint-Cloud, Sceaux, Rambouillet and Compiegne are protected in their own right.

In Britain, successive governments have shied away from listing gardens as they list buildings, for fear of the burden it would impose on owners whose resources are already stretched. But the need is not for a protective order imposing a duty on owners to maintain gardens, which would meet with understandably strong resistance even if it were accompanied by generous grants and tax reliefs.

The need is for Parliament to oblige planning authorities and government departments to pay special regard to the merits of properties on the English Heritage register when they are considering or drawing up proposals for developments or roads. This would be parallel to the special regard that local authorities are obliged to give to proposals affecting the character of conservation areas (under Section 277 (8) of the 1971 Planning Act).

It would not involve complicated legislation; it would simply bring an existing list within the framework of structure plans and planning applications. Chris Patten, the Environment Secretary, is said to be looking for quick, simple measures to show his green credentials. Protection for parks and gardens should be high on his list.

The author is president of SAVE Britain's Heritage.

Tappers, toppers and other rituals

to put on a top hat in the Chamber before making a point of order during a division.

My father always used to tap the end of his cigarette on the cigarette box, before lighting up — though the days when you needed to compact the tobacco were long gone. Genteel hostesses serving tea offer the milk in a milk jug, though it must be the better part of a century since the alternative was a churn.

The ritualizing of things, though as old as man, surely continues. What can we spot, passing stealthily from the real — today — to tomorrow's ritual?

A friend tells me that most Roman Catholic churches now

have sound amplification systems for the priest. The sight of Father O'Flaherty walking up to his microphone before the service and tapping it twice to check that it's working is as much part of the form of worship as the bells and incense. A friend speculates that 100 years from now (when microphones are obsolete and sound amplification automatic) an obligatory part of every priest's kit — along with chalice, napkin and other accoutrements — will be a small black bulbous object on a stick, which he will solemnly place before him, and tap, twice, before beginning Mass.

And should you, after Mass, take the family to a restaurant for



MATTHEW PARRIS

lunch, future generations will see a strange ritual when, the meal over, it is time to go. In those days, of course, no bill, money or plastic will change hands; each more dangerous as a way of

electronically to the customer's account as it is served. Nevertheless, Dad will signal departure by raising his left palm, open, in the air, pinching together the thumb and index finger of his right, and holding the right six inches from the left) moving the pinched hand across the palm, left to right, in a squiggling motion.

The aircraft emergency routine, demonstrated in the aisle by cabin crew before the plane takes off, is surely another budding ritual. Hardly anyone watches any more, unless the air hostess is glamorous. You never get this routine on buses, which also have emergency exits and which are far more dangerous as a way of

travelling; but doubtless the insistence on this procedure was framed when accidents were more common. Now they are rare, but if your 747 does fly into the Atlantic, you are frankly a goner, and most unlikely to find yourself sliding down those colourful plastic chutes (having first removed all dangerous items like necklaces and high heels), pulling your little toggle to inflate your life vest and blowing your whistle to attract attention.

Often, now, the instructions accompanying the demonstration are a tape recording; and the cabin crew go through the motions in weary, zombie-like fashion. As a performance, it

approaches a dance routine, and sometimes reminds me of a jaded stripper.

So why not formalize the dance, and make it more entertaining? Why not bring on the air hostess wearing a little slip of a dress in silk boxer shorts, and let them do a dance based on the plane-crash instructions? The choreography I envisage is something in the Egyptian style, with arms waved expressively, fingers stabbing in the direction of the emergency exits, and exaggerated head movements.

Everybody could applaud, and anyone who really wanted to know about the life raft could read the instructions.

Further examples abound; but, for the moment, *goodbye-havened* — or "God be with you and have a nice day", as the quaint old saying went,



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NEXT YEAR IN JERUSALEM

These are difficult days for Israel. The tensions generated by the *intifada* have now been compounded by the continuing flow of immigrants from the Soviet Union. Yesterday's imposition of censorship on any items of news relating to the subject gives the measure of Israeli concern and anxiety.

There is no question of the newcomers not being welcome. Their right to be there is established by the Law of Return. Soviet Jewry constituted the last great reservoir of immigration, and the opening of the gates has long been a cherished aim of Israeli policy. It was, indeed, until recently a source of grievance in Jerusalem that 90 per cent of those leaving the Soviet Union wanted to settle not in Israel but the United States.

New American restrictions on immigration, however, together with a disturbing growth of anti-Semitism in Eastern Europe, has pushed up the numbers now seeking a new future in Israel to a level which is almost overwhelming. The long-term result should be highly beneficial. In the short term the high cost of absorption has led to heavy dependence on US aid.

According to long-established principle, newcomers are allowed to settle where they please, and a number of those from Russia have chosen a life in some of Israel's new settlements, including those in the territories occupied since the 1967 war. How many have chosen to do so is not known. Officially the Government dismisses it as a fraction, and denied encouraging them to do so. But which areas constitute the "occupied territories" is disputed — particularly on the outskirts of Jerusalem.

Resettlement has been a hotly-debated issue since the Prime Minister, Mr Yitzhak Shamir, said earlier this year that the growing Soviet exodus required "the land of Israel, a large and strong Israel". Despite his denials, this was interpreted as meaning that he contemplated retaining the occupied territories to accommodate the increasing population. The Palestine Liberation Organization has already responded by declaring that it would regard the

wholesale population of the West Bank and Gaza with new Jewish immigrants as "an act of war", but even on the wildest estimates that has never been in question.

Mrs Thatcher is among those Western leaders who have spoken out against such a policy in Israel. More seriously from Jerusalem's point of view, the American Secretary of State, Mr James Baker, demanded a guarantee that the Israelis would halt all resettlement of immigrants in the territories. His strong statement has reawakened Israeli fears that US aid, now running at \$3 billion a year, would be cut if the Jerusalem Government refused to comply.

The Jerusalem Government's complaint that the United States' impatient intervention had made it much more difficult for the Cabinet to reach agreement on starting peace talks with Palestinians may sound like an attempt to shift the blame. None the less, Mr Shamir is in a difficult position, with his Likud Party split over his peace plan and Labour, junior partners in the Government coalition, threatening to pull out if he does not agree to Mr Baker's own proposals.

The Middle East peace process is immensely complicated. Two vicious terrorist attacks on Israelis in six months have swung opinion there towards the right, making compromise that much more difficult for Mr Shamir, who is not known for his flexibility. To win agreement on peace talks with Palestinians is hard enough. To get a consensus on a Palestinian delegation which includes Palestinian deportees and Arabs from East Jerusalem (as a frustrated Mr Baker has proposed) is still more difficult.

As this last great ingathering gains momentum, Israel needs American support more than ever. The White House therefore has an increasingly powerful lever to exact the concessions it sees as desirable. An undertaking that it does not contemplate large-scale new settlement in the disputed territories is a price Israel should be prepared to pay for progress towards peace and for help in absorbing its new countrymen from the Soviet Union.

AND THEN THERE WAS ONE

When the Nicaraguan people sent their revolutionary leaders packing last Sunday they also sharpened the solitude of a lonely man — Fidel Castro, the last relic of unreconstructed Leninism outside Albania and Asia. The Cuban leader has watched in disgust as the people of Eastern Europe have yielded to the allure of capitalism and cast off their "socialist gains". He has suffered in sorrow as his Soviet benefactors have abandoned old dogmas and set off into heretical lands.

In December, the Americans removed his useful ally Manuel Noriega of Panama and then last Sunday came proof that the anti-communist wolf had leaped the Atlantic and was padding around the Caribbean back yard. Apart from Cuba, Nicaragua was the only surviving remnant of tropical Marxism and, despite some recent estrangement, it was the one dearest to Dr Castro's heart.

When they shot their way to power in 1979, the Sandinistas were Fidel's boys. He had inspired them and trained them and armed them. In Fidel's view, President Daniel Ortega had only himself to blame for his defeat. "You chose to take the revolution on to the bourgeois' territory and you lost", he was reported to have shouted at Señor Ortega in an angry telephone call on Monday.

Consulting his people via the ballot box is the last thing Dr Castro plans for Cuba. The faster communism withers around the planet, the further he drives his country into harsh isolation. Last month, he decided it was time to respond to the worldwide "crisis of socialism" with what were called profound reforms. This, it turned out, meant calling a party congress for 1991 with the task of "making more perfect" the Leninist control of the State.

In southern Florida, home to several hundred thousands Cuban exiles, they are so sure that Dr Castro's regime is disintegrating

that many have put their houses up for sale. This could be premature. He may well be turning into the Ceausescu of the Caribbean, but Dr Castro still enjoys a degree of affection and loyalty denied to the former party dictators of Europe.

Signs of discontent are manifest, for all that. There was the Stalinist show trial last summer which ended with the execution of General Arnaldo Ochoa, a hero from the Angolan war, and the shooting or jailing of half a dozen other officers. Though he was convicted of drug trafficking, most Cubans took Ochoa's trial as evidence of high-level opposition to the rule of Fidel and his brother Raul, his most trusted lieutenant.

The security forces are receiving new riot control equipment to cope with the expected reaction to deeper penury. This is inevitable, given the Soviet reluctance to continue paying five billion dollars a year to keep Dr Castro's paradise afloat. Mr Gorbachev, who tired of Dr Castro's ranting on a visit to Havana last year, has told him that Cuba must start earning its keep — something unlikely so long as its leader rejects all free market reforms.

For the United States, Dr Castro is still a threat. He is arming guerrillas in El Salvador and elsewhere and he has just taken delivery of new Soviet MiG-29 warplanes. The Bush Administration is content to wait for the regime to collapse before making any move to end the island's quarantine. Once the darling of the left around the hemisphere, Fidel is now regarded even by Latin intellectuals as an eccentric fossil.

Dr Castro is said by visitors to be growing bitter and despondent about his place in history. He probably will not listen, but his friends might try suggesting again that he hold a plebiscite of the kind that eased General Pinochet from power in Chile. If, as likely, he lost, he could at least depart in dignity.

LEAD KINDLY LIGHT

This year marks the centenary of the death of John Henry Newman, one of the most eminent of all the great Victorians. He is being remembered far and wide: in his two cities, Birmingham and Oxford; his two colleges, Oriel and Trinity; his two churches, the Church of England and the Roman Catholic Church; and in a variety of lesser institutions with which he was associated, usually by having started them. He seems by now to belong to everyone, and the National Portrait Gallery has this week paid its own tribute by opening an exhibition in his honour.

There is already a whole international industry in Newman doctoral theses, no doubt partly explained by the sheer pleasure of exploring his anglic prose. Seldom has the English language been deployed so lucidly to such rigorous intellectual purpose.

A subtle difference exists between an artificial anniversary and a real one. The artificial variety is dreamt up to promote contemporary causes. A real anniversary, in which category it would be right to put that of Newman, refuses to allow itself to be used for such ulterior purposes. It responds to a public interest which already exists independently of the calendar.

What then does Cardinal Newman mean today? What he was first famous for was the launching of a movement to restore Tradition to the Church of England, in which Church his heirs keep up a good fight which is still neither won nor lost. He wanted to make it a truer Church, but his personal search was for the true Church; so he became famous — for a while infamous — for his conversion from Anglicanism to Rome.

The contemporary relevance of his startling transfer of allegiance has been somewhat diminished by the modern ecumenical movement, where the hostilities over which Church

is truest have been superseded. But that revolution in relationships was itself largely the result of the Second Vatican Council, 1962-65, which has frequently been referred to as Newman's Council because of the way so many of his insights at last found their mark. The modern Roman Catholic Church has become increasingly aware how much it owes to one 19th-century Englishman, who transplanted his Oxford Anglican mind into a Roman Catholic soul with astonishingly fertile consequences.

Newman next became famous as the object of Charles Kingsley's insouciant barbs, and for his defence of himself in his great *Apologia*, which was the great literary sensation of its time. From then on he was rarely out of the public eye; and towards the end he became famous as a Cardinal, which was no mere *ex officio* elevation but a personal tribute of Pope Leo XIII. He is famous still, not least for his hymns *Lead Kindly Light* and *Praise to the Holy in the height*, which comes from his epic poem, later set by Elgar, *The Dream of Gerontius*.

He died on August 11, 1890, the hundredth anniversary of which will mark the culmination of this Newman year, and his influence does not diminish even now. His *Idea of a University* illuminates the contemporary debate over the purposes of academic education as a beacon flashing out a piercing message — "There is a knowledge which is desirable, though nothing come of it, as being of itself a treasure, and a sufficient remuneration of years of labour." It may be a little out of fashion, though its time will come again. And so, it may be hoped, will favour return to Newman's "idea of a gentleman" — "It is almost a definition of a gentleman to say that he is one who never inflicts pain."

Lone Rangers in the inner-city

From the President of the Royal Town Planning Institute
Sir, The Prime Minister's commitment to a private and public-sector partnership in the Action for Cities campaign (report, March 1) is welcome. Unfortunately, she has in mind the kind of partnership which existed between the Lone Ranger and Tonto.

The private sector plays the Lone Ranger — a (well-fed) hero on a white horse given more public money to spend on silver bullets. The public sector is Tonto — the sidekick who repeatedly gets into trouble and has to be rescued by our hero.

Whilst more Government cash goes to the private sector, local authorities are now being forced to put a large proportion of their capital receipts into debt redemption rather than new schemes. This is the economics of yesterday, not of the entrepreneurial nineties.

As inner-city renewal up and down the country has shown, an effective partnership requires the public sector to provide the context, certainty, and infrastructure — or doing the job where the private sector can't — which will encourage the private sector to invest in the high-risk, less attractive parts of our cities where growth is most needed.

The Government should implement the Audit Commission's recommendation of local regeneration strategies drawn up by local authorities in partnership with the private sector and the community. Local authority capital spending would then be free of unnecessary restrictions where it is implementing regeneration strategy. In this way, we can move towards a co-ordinated approach and away from the fragmentation which the Audit Commission criticised.

Our inner cities require planning and true partnership; they cannot be left entirely to the Lone Rangers.

Yours faithfully,
ROBIN THOMPSON,
President,
The Royal Town Planning Institute,
26 Portland Place, W1,
March 1.

TV and football

From Sir John Nicholas
Sir, You report today (March 2) on your sports pages that the international football authorities are considering altering the structure of games in a coming competition to break the game into four quarters to provide more intervals for TV advertising.

I can't make out why this idea should offend me so much. I'm not all that keen on TV soccer but I nevertheless have a feeling that we are facing yet another great shove down the dizzy slope of triviality.

If the idea had come from the players complaining about the strain of the game it would have been different. But the prospect that a well-founded and long-standing pattern should be thrown away for advertising convenience seems wrong.

No doubt those who arrange TV contracts are likely to say that the sport needs the money and that we will all benefit in some unspecified way. But then I think that was where the dizzy slope began.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN NICHOLLS,
Dove Barn,
Old Coast Road,
Ormesby St Margaret,
Norfolk,
March 2.

Cricketing tribute

From Canon Eric James
Sir, The death of L. E. G. Ames, the Kent and England cricketer (Obituaries, February 28), will stir many a grateful memory. For the late Bishop John Robinson, for instance, the Canterbury Cricket Week was a kind of secular "Holy Week", with people like Ames and Frank Woolley as the "holy ones".

As a schoolboy at Marlborough, John Robinson produced what was virtually his first book (nearly a quarter of a century before *Honest to God*) — an analysis of Ames's career, from 1926-1939, occupying 150 pages. His scores and strokes are meticulously recorded and analysed by "spiders". The record is complete with scorecards and illustrations.

This particular week seems an appropriate time to give thanks not only for L. E. G. Ames but for the game of cricket, to which he made such a signal contribution.

Yours sincerely,
ERIC JAMES,
11 Denny Crescent,
Kennington, SE11,
February 28.

Christ in history

From the Reverend Tony Highton
Sir, Clifford Longley ("Relentless Durham Inquisition", February 24) is mistaken to think that the Bishop of Durham was subjected to a "second trial" at the recent General Synod. My amendment provided the synod for the first time with a motion effectively calling for his resignation. The fact that it was rejected will add to the disillusionment, hurt and betrayal felt by thousands of Christians.

Christianity is essentially based on the historical events of Christ's birth, life, death, empty tomb, etc. If any of these events did not occur historically then belief in the incarnation, atonement and Resurrection becomes untenable. The whole Christ-event is an invasion

Motorway plan for Twyford Down

From the Director of the British Road Federation
Sir, Your suggestion ("Motorway Madness", February 28) that the transport secretary has made the wrong decision over M3 Twyford Down is open to question on at least two counts.

This is not the first time that similar indignation has been expressed over the anticipated environmental impact of major road developments. I recall the M40 at the Chiltern escarpment, the M62 in the Pennines, the M6 in Cumbria and M25 in the Darenth Valley.

About the latter the Countryside Commission said publicly that "the M25 would be an uncompromisingly alien element in an unspoilt area". Ten years later this screaming anger has been shown to be totally unjustified and the Darenth Valley is a better place.

Nor is cost the only criterion on which the M3 decision has been reached. To quote from the inspector's report — and he recommended against the tunnel after two separate public inquiries: "... on the basis of evidence presented at these inquiries, the environmental superiority of a major tunnel alternative is outweighed by the combined effects of substantially higher capital costs and worse economic performance, a much delayed opening date, the implications of adverse traffic distribution on Winchester and St Cross, the provision of large sites for soil disposal and disruption to BR, which by comparison with the Department's proposals are not justified."

He went on to say that the Department's scheme "... strikes the most favourable balance of all routes to the interests of people, the wider countryside, the environment and Winchester."

The Government has pursued fully its obligation to consult, even to the extent of a second inquiry — with further delay — to allow Countryside Commission and English Heritage to appear.

At last a conclusion has been reached jointly by the secretaries of state for the environment and for transport. Let us have an end to delay and get on with an urgently needed piece of road. On past evidence, the gloom will be proved to be quite unjustified.

Yours faithfully,
PETER J. WITT, Director,
British Road Federation Limited,
Pillar House,
194-202 Old Kent Road, SE1,
March 1.

Channel tunnel issues

From the Editor of Railway Gazette International
Sir, Imagine the laurels awaiting the inventor of a transport system that could carry, without a single death, the passenger-miles achieved by all the cars on Britain's roads in three years. Look no further — it has been done already by Japan's bullet trains (which spend a third of their time in tunnels) and the French TGV (*train de grande vitesse*).

Now conceive, if you can, a new kind of motorway on which 300 million vehicle-miles could be run, again without a fatal accident. Amazingly, that exists too, this time as car-carrying trains through the Alpine tunnels.

Put them together and you have a fair approximation of the Channel tunnel, of which Stephen Plowden said (article, February

28) "many more people could die in a serious accident... than were killed at Zebrugges or King's Cross". Well, lots of nasty things can happen in this uncertain world, but the best way to avoid them is to use systems with a good safety record. Yet, without quoting a single safety statistic, Plowden says we should stop building the tunnel and "safety is the overriding issue".

If carrying people in their cars through long railway tunnels is so dangerous, where are the corpses? Our roads produce 100 a week regular as clockwork, but nobody suggests shutting them down — presumably because killing people in ones or twos doesn't constitute a disaster.

Yours faithfully,
RICHARD HOPE, Editor,
Railway Gazette International,
Quadrant House,
Sutton, Surrey.

many within the Establishment in promoting industry and investment and the failure of Thatcherite managers to effect a durable transition to an alternative, cooperative industrial relations culture. His readiness to blame in an entirely imprecise, generalising way, whole sections of society for arguable decline seems indeed more symptomatic of the problem than of the creativity that might produce answers.

Yours faithfully,
PETER WOOD,
Newbold Farm,
Duntisbourne Abbots,
Cirencester, Gloucestershire.

From Mr Peter Wood
Sir, The basic difficulty with the argument of the new President of the Institute of Directors (report, February 28) — that the Establishment is responsible for the anti-enterprise culture — is that it locates the spirit of enterprise simply and solely in manufacturing and commercial activity, whereas enterprise and its disagreeable opposite are found in every sphere of national life, including the Church and the universities.

Peter Morgan ignores among other things the historic role of

Yours faithfully,
D. G. EVANS,
46 Layton's Lane,
Surrey-on-Thames,
Middlesex,
February 26.

From Mr Philip P. Nind
Sir, The drugs industry possesses massive international organisations with elaborate distribution networks and money-laundering facilities across national frontiers on a scale greater even than those of the large multinational corporations. It cares nothing for the evil it produces, and despite the valiant efforts of some individual drug enforcement agencies it thumbs its nose at governments and at national boundaries.

Surely there is a case now for every national government to have an independent drugs department and for every Cabinet senior minister for drugs? Let the EC set the ball rolling for Europe with its drugs ministers meeting regularly in the same way that its foreign ministers (and others) have done hitherto.

Yours sincerely,
PHILIP P. NIND,
The White House,
Abinger Common, Surrey,
February 26.

From Mr Jack Triggs
Sir, A recent report in *The Times* (February 26) concerning the expected profits from the sale of fragments from the Berlin Wall, reminds me of the sale (on a much smaller scale, but with great ingenuity) of parts of another German wall in June, 1944.

An elderly private soldier — the Colonel's batman — in a battalion of my regiment that landed as part of a beach group on D-Day, discovered the remains of a German pillbox with a hole in one wall, closely resembling a ticket box-office window.

On June 8, the batman was ensconced at the window with an ample supply of small concrete pieces and a notice stating, "Pieces of Hitler's original Western Wall, 2s.6d." For two days there was a small queue of teenage sailors, mostly American from the landing craft arriving on each tide, happily handing over their half crowns.

The Colonel then instructed me to close the "shop", but the batman made over £250.

Yours faithfully,
JACK TRIGGS,
68 Campden Hill Court,
Campden Hill Road, W8,
February 28.

Letters to the Editor should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number — (01782) 5046.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN WADE,
Savage Club,
9 Fitzmaurice Place,
Berkeley Square, W1,
February 20.

From Mr John Wade
Sir, My late father always considered it to be discourteous to leave a wireless set running in an empty room, "Letting the man talk with nobody to listen to him".

This morning, as my train wended its erratic way through the City, we crawled through the deserted and silent Mansion House station. As we did so we could all hear the recorded platform announcement about delays. Who was he talking to? Is there life down there as we know it?

Yours faithfully,
JOHN WADE,
Savage Club,
9 Fitzmaurice Place,
Berkeley Square, W1,
February 20.

From Professor Robert Bluglass
Sir, Psychiatric patients are increasingly to be cared for by a network of services in the community rather than in hospital. On February 27 (early editions) you reported the concern expressed by Judge Lymbury, QC, at the Central Criminal Court about the release from hospital of patients who rely on medication.

This is a concern shared by many professionals who are aware of the problems in management, and occasionally risk, that can arise when such patients cease to take the drugs prescribed for them, which are crucial for their continued community care.

At the present time, such patients cannot be recalled to hospital compulsorily, should they refuse an invitation to be admitted voluntarily, until their mental state has deteriorated seriously. A number of proposals have been made to change the Mental Health Act 1983, for instance, to introduce a new form of "community care order" and to extend the powers of guardianship for psychiatric patients. However, compulsory treatment in the community is in many ways unsatisfactory and is an intrusion upon civil rights, whether by treatment order or by changing guardianship.

I suggest that the solution which would be applicable to most patients in this category would be to amend the Act to allow the discharge of appropriate patients, with the condition that they would continue to be subject to recall to a hospital if the patient failed to take medication. This would be a form of conditional discharge along similar lines to that already allowed for patients on restriction orders who are discharged by a Mental Health Review Tribunal.

A patient subject to such a qualified discharge should be allowed a periodic application to have his case reviewed by a tribunal.

Yours faithfully,
R. S. BLUGGLASS,
The University of Birmingham,
Department of Psychiatry,
Reaside Clinic,
Bristol Road South,
Rushy, Rednal,
Birmingham,
February 28.

S Africa's poor whites
From Mr D. G. Evans
Sir, Despite extensive attention to the developments in South Africa, the important issue of the "poor whites" is seldom mentioned.

Forming the main support for the right-wing parties, they derive from an Afrikaner background occupying poorly paid jobs in the Civil Service, police, railways, Post Office and similar Government organisations, making up half of the white work-force in the country.

They are the most vulnerable as job reservation disappears and Asian, Coloured and, in due course, Bantu blacks begin to threaten their livelihood. They live in down-town areas, where the Group Areas Act fails to operate, and they have no other land in which to take refuge.

South Africa is a diverse country, with a dozen or more black ethnic groups. It is unfortunately hardly appreciated that the whites are equally diverse, with the poor whites occupying an important lagged group.

Yours faithfully,
D. G. EVANS,
46 Layton's Lane,
Surrey-on-Thames,
Middlesex,
February 26.

Fight against drugs
From Mr Philip P. Nind
Sir, The drugs industry possesses massive international organisations with elaborate distribution networks and money-laundering facilities across national frontiers on a scale greater even than those of the large multinational corporations. It cares nothing for the evil it produces, and despite the valiant efforts of some individual drug enforcement agencies it thumbs its nose at governments and at national boundaries.

Surely there is a case now for every national government to have an independent drugs department and for every Cabinet senior minister for drugs? Let the EC set the ball rolling for Europe with its drugs ministers meeting regularly in the same way that its foreign ministers (and others) have done hitherto.

Yours sincerely,
PHILIP P. NIND,
The White House,
Abinger Common, Surrey,
February 26.

Ghost platform
From Mr John Wade
Sir, My late father always considered it to be discourteous to leave a wireless set running in an empty room, "Letting the man talk with nobody to listen to him".

This morning, as my train wended its erratic way through the City, we crawled through the deserted and silent Mansion House station. As we did so we could all hear the recorded platform announcement about delays. Who was he talking to? Is there life down there as we know it?

Yours faithfully,
JOHN WADE,
Savage Club,
9 Fitzmaurice Place,
Berkeley Square, W1,
February 20.

1: 1053kHz/285m; 1089kHz/275m; FM 97.6-9
2: 693kHz/433m; 509kHz/330m; FM
247m; FM 90-92.4. Radio 4: 198kHz/1515m;
kHz/261m; FM 97.3. Capital 1548kHz/194m;
Radio 4: 1458kHz/206m; FM 94.9; World Service:

Peter Waymark

● Billed as "a series of films on British Airways", *Airline* (BBC2, 8.35pm) promises to be a lot more interesting than this bald description would suggest. I did not know that the members of a 747 crew are each served different meals in case of food poisoning. Or, on a more serious level, that 98 per cent of a flight is on autopilot, giving the human pilots little to do. "Flying an airliner is hours and hours of boredom punctuated by moments of stark terror," is the verdict of Captain Ted Deacon, as he sits back and lets the computer guide 327 passengers and assorted dogs and cats on the flight from Heathrow to Bangkok. Do we need pilots at all, or will planes eventually be flown from the ground? Air traffic controllers, who work longer hours than pilots for a quarter of the salary, think this is already happening.

But pity the pilots' wives, stuck at home with half the year while their husbands fly it up in luxury hotels. And pity the women pilots. They are about as common as women MPs, face similar prejudices and not one of them has yet made it to captain.



RADIO CHOICE

Peter Davalle

● All good things must come to an end, even *The Radio 4 Debate* (8.00pm). The programmes have been models of their kind: strong views, most of them succinctly expressed, by the "for" and "against" speakers; useful arguments from the audiences; firm control of the proceedings from the resident chairman Brian Redhead. If, and when, a new series is planned, serious consideration should be given to extending the debates by 15 minutes. Better still, by 30. All the subjects debated during the past four years – and certainly tonight's clash of opinions on the issue that our present prison system cannot rehabilitate offenders – have been messy, complex, and controversial enough to warrant extra time. I almost said injury time, because in *The Radio 4 Debate*, no quarter is sought and none is given.

RADIO 1

FM Stereo and MW
News on the half-hour from 5:30am until 12:30pm, then at 2:30, 4:30, 7:30, 9:30pm
5:00am Tim Smith 7:00 Bruno and Lix Breakfast Show 10:00 Dave Lee Travis 12:30pm Pick of the Pops: Alan Freeman with the week's Top 20 charts from 1963, 1976 and 1987 3:00 Scruples if presented by Simon Mayo 3:30 Philip Schofield 5:00 Top 40 with Bruno Brookes 7:00 Anne Nightingale Request Show 8:00 Andy Kershaw 11:00-2:00am Bob Harris on Sunday

RADIO 2

FM Stereo and HD
 Owen David **6.00**
 Graham Knight **7.30** Good Morning
 Sunday **9.05** Melodies For You
11.50 Your Radio 2 All-Time
 Greats **2.00** Benny Green **3.00**
 Sounds Easy **4.00** Orchestral
 Contrasts: Love and Hate **4.30**
5.00 Sing Something Simple **5.20**
 Charlie Chester (FM only) **7.00**
 Adam Smith **7.30**
 Opera Nights **8.30** Sunday
 Half-Hour **9.00** Your Hundred Best
 Tunes **10.05** Songs from the
 Shows **10.45** Geoff Eales **11.00**
 Sounds of Jazz **1.00am**
 Nightdrive **3.00-4.00** A Little Night

WORLD SERVICE

[illegible]

RADIO 3

6.35 **Open University (P&H only)**
6.35 **Master and News Headlines**
7.00 Handel: A series featuring the Concerto Grossi, Op 6, The Sixteen Choir and Orchestra under Christopher, with Lynne Dawson, soprano, Ian Partridge, tenor, perform Overture to the Lord and a new song, Vienna Concerto
Musica under Harmoncourt performs Concerto Grosso in E minor, Op 6 No 3
7.30 **Pop**
7.30 **Modelbeat:** LPO under Cameron Phillips
Schumann (Carnival, Op 9): Rostropovich (Rhapsody on a Theme of Paganini)
8.30 **News**
8.30 **Concert Choice:** Elgar (Enigma Variations) BBC SO under Toscanini; Schumann (Romances: Five Pies, piano); Gounod (Valse Concerto in C major); Orchestral Ensemble of Paris under Wallez, with Jean-Pierre Rampall; Mozart (Concerto in B flat major for piano and orchestra of the Vienna PO); Jongens (Symphonie Concertante: San Francisco SO under de Vries, with Michael Murray, organ)
9.30 **Musiklink:**
Scandinavian Season: In the Shadow of Sibelius?
Michael Ower takes us on a musical journey in Finland
10.15 BBC Scottish SO under Andrew Davies performs Italian Overture, Tchaikovsky: Stotokovich Symphony No 11, Beethoven (Piano Concerto No 5)
10.45 **Violin and Piano:** Yuri Sashin and Mahalia Samuels perform Schubert (Scherzo, Arpeggio); Liszt: Stotokovich (Sonata, Op 147)
11.00 **Poet of the Moment:** James Fenton introduces "The Bard of the Shetland Hebrides" from his latest collection
11.15 **Towards Bach (new series):** A series of 16 programmes, each featuring a composer from last year's South Bank season and specially recorded studio performances. Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment under Gustav Leonard performs J.C.F. Bachner (Suite No 4) (Chaconne on Prélude)
11.30 **Classical:** Beethoven (Symphony No 207, Vermeiden Zwanzert der weichenenden Saiten); Bach (Cantata No 206, Schleicht, wandelt in den Weiden); and 2.35 **Figural Rhapsody**

RADIO 4

5.30am Stereo on FM
5.50am Shipping Forecast 6.00
News Briefing: Weather 6.15
Orlando (6) 6.30am
Morning Has Broken 6.35
6.55 Weather 7.00 News
7.10 Sunday Papers 7.15
7.15 Orlando 7.30am
Presents a livestock farm in
Powys and meets the Pugh
family 7.40 Sunday, Inc! 7.45
7.50am Weather 8.00 News
8.10 Sunday Papers 8.50
Appeal by Jon Snow on
behalf of New Horizon
Youth Centre with news
on homeless unemployed
people between 16 and 21
8.55 Weather
9.00 News 9.10 Sunday Papers
9.15 News from America by
Almair Cooke (r)
9.30 Morning Service from St
Andrew's Church, Oxford
9.10.15 News omnibus
edition
9.11.15 News Stand with Hugh
Pryor-Jones
9.12.15 News at Ten Week with
Margaret Howard (s) (r)
10.11.30 Desert Island Discs: Sue
Lawley with Sir Ian
Treharne, former director-
general of the BBC and
currently director of Thames
Television and chairman of
the Horserace Betting Levy
Board (r) 12.55
1.00 The World This Weekend
1.55 Shipping Forecast
2.00 Gardeners' Question Time
from Buckinghamshire,
where members of the
Royal Horticultural
Society put their queries to
the experts
2.23.30 Classic Series: The Mystery
of Edwin Drood, by Charles
Dickens, dramatized in five
parts by David Buck, Part 1:
Orphans (s) (r)
2.30 News: The Radio Programme with
Margaret Taylor
4.00 News: Lord Nelson Explores:
Seven days aboard the tall ship
Lord Nelson, owned by the
Jubilee Sailing Trust and
designed to accommodate
disabled people
With diary entries by Frank
Sutton and Carole Whitfield (r)
4.42 Profile: Christopher Cook
profiles independent
publisher Christopher
Snyder-Stevenson, who left
Viking Penguin to set up his
own
5.00 News: Down Your Way:
Director of the Science
Museum Dr Neil Cossons
visits Telford, Shropshire
5.40 Lines of Communication:
Patrick Hannah on history (5
of 6) (r) 5.50 Shipping
Forecast 5.55 Weather
6.00 News
6.15 Letter From ... England,
Arkansas: New series: A
series of four letters by
Stephen Jassal samples life
in an American small-town
Englishman
6.30 News: A weekly magazine reflecting
political life in Europe
7.00 News: Cat's Whiskers with
Angie Crane
7.30 Bookshelf: Presented by
Nigel David: John Mortimer
talks about his latest book
Thees Resurrected (r)
8.00 News: Radio 4 Debates: In the
last of four programmes,
Brian Redhead chairs a
discussion at Leyhill Open
Prison in Gloucestershire
where the minister
responsible for prisons,
prison reformers, prison
officials and inmates
discuss the proposition that
"Our present prison system
cannot rehabilitate
offenders" (see Choice (r))
8.05 News: Enquire Within (r)
8.15 The Natural History
Programme with Fergus
Keating and Jessica Hain (r)
8.15 Weather
10.00 News
10.15 Batman - The Lazarus
Syndrome: Documentary-
drama in which Police
Inspector Gordon (Paul
Maxwell) delves into the
background of Gotham
City's famous vigilante (s) (r)
11.00 In Committee presented by
Tina Turner
11.30 Seeds of Faith: The Way
the World is, Part 1: From
Physicist to Priest: The Rev
Dr John Polkinghorne,
President of Queen's
College, Cambridge,
presents six programmes for
Lent (s)
11.45 Before the Ending of the
Day (s) (r)
12.00 News: News, Inc! 12.30
Weather 12.33 Shipping
Forecast
FM as LW except:
7.00-9.00am Open University:
7.00 Modern Art: Images of
Prostitution 7.20 Social Sciences:
Grapewine magazine 7.40 Mystery
Fables 1.55-2.00pm Open
University:
4.00 Education Matters 4.30 The
Wasting Game 5.00 A Long
Late A-Winding 5.30 Buongiorno
Italia!

TV/LONDON

6.00 TV-am begins with Good Morning Britain 7.00 It's Stardust. Alvin Stardust presents a collection of songs, stories and poems

8.00 David Frost on Sunday. The guests include the Soviet ambassador Leonid Zamyatin and Labour MP Frank Dobson. Frost's guests for the evening are Carol Thatcher and Dr Peter Jones. Includes news and weather at 8.00 and 9.00

9.25 Film: *The Big Red* (1961) starring Walter Pidgeon, Gilles Puyant and Emile Meyer. First part of a Dario Argento series. A belief that a dog can be handled and trained through love and care rather than harsh discipline. Directed by Norman Tokar

10.20 The Campbell's. Return of the drama series set in the 19th-century Jamaica is now lecturing at the Edinburgh Medical School

10.45 Lk. A report on what Glasgow's Year of Culture means for the disabled

11.00 Morning Worship from Frinton Pier

12.00 Encounter: A Time To Die. Bob Wright, a clinical nurse specializing crisis care in the accident and emergency department at Leeds General Infirmary, talks about coping with bereavement

12.30 My Little Pony. Part four 12.40 Police 5 12.55 LWT News and weather

1.00 News of One with Nicholas Owen. Weather

1.10 Eyewitness Investigates the 'peace dividend', the financial benefits for Britain that could come from the scaling down of armed forces. Includes interviews with Lord Carrington, Henry Kissinger and Jeanne Kirkpatrick

2.00 The European Indoor championships from the Kelvin Hall, Glasgow

3.25 The Match. Coventry v Aston Villa. The commentator is Brian Moore

4.00 International Athletics from Glasgow continued

5.00 Rescue: Water Falls. The visit of a party of Hindu monks to a highland waterfall turns to tragedy

5.30 News at 5.30 with Nicholas Owen. Weather 5.35 LWT News and weather

6.40 Highway. Sir Harry Scowbe pays a second visit to Chelmsford

7.15 The Two of Us: Dangers in the News. The Scottish weatherman helping the police with their enquiries. (Oracle)

7.45 Denis Norden's 21 Years of Laughter: A personal selection of the best comedy sketches shown on LWT over the past 21 years (r)

8.45 News with Nicholas Owen. Weather 9.00 LWT Weather

9.06 Agatha Christie's Poirot: The Murder of Lord Armstrong. The art deco detective becomes involved in a society scandal. (Oracle)

9.08 The Craig Ferguson Show. Stand-up routines and sketches

9.30 The Scottish Screen Show

9.35 The South Back Show: Yuri Bashmet. Film of the Ukrainian viola virtuoso Yuri Bashmet at work and at home

10.15 One On One American Singer/songwriter Tori Patten talks to Annie Nightingale

10.05 The TV Chat Show (r)

10.05 Pick of the Week. A look back at the best of the week's regional television

10.35 Film: *The Last Train* (1973) starring Jean-Louis Trintignant and Romy Schneider. As the Nazis sweep through Europe during May 1945, fugitives are looking for their lives using whatever means available. Directed by Pierre Granier-Deferre

10.30 Hillary's Adventurers. Dare-devil escapades

10.40 News at 10.40 car racing

11.00 TITM Thursday News. Ends at 6.00

PROC 2

- 6.35 Open University**
- 12.00** *Westminster Week* examines the work of the House of Lords. (Ceefax)
- 12.35 Around Westminster**
- 1.00** *Open Forum Magazine* examines the role of research in universities
- 1.25 Weekend Update (?)**
- 1.30** *4th International Safe Sex for a Safe Seat (?)* (Ceefax)
- 2.10 Reportage Update**
- 3.00** *International Bowls*. The final sets of the Embassy World Indoor championship
- 5.00** *Rugby Special*. Wales v Scotland and France v Ireland
- 6.00** *Russia at the Rubicon*. Will President Gorbachev's bid to radically reform the Soviet Union succeed?
- 7.15** *Land of the Eagle: Confronting the Wilder East*. Part one two of the eight-part series on the natural history of North America. (Ceefax)
- 8.55** *Ripping Yarns: Roger of the Raj*, starring Michael Palin and Joan Sanderson (?)
- 9.25** *Artists: Jet Jockeys* (see Choice)
- 9.35** *The Talk Show with Clive James*. Clive James is joined by journalist Christopher Hitchens, Christopher Meehan, former member of the Prime Minister's Think Tank, and the editor of the *Sunday Times* Andrew Neil
- 10.10** *Screen Two: Small Zones* (1990) starring Clive James, Helen Winkler and Suzuzanna Hamilton. Jenny, a young woman from Hull trapped in a violent marriage, reads poetry by an imprisoned Russian, Irina, and begins to understand that she is in charge of her own destiny. Directed by Michael Whyte. (Ceefax)
- 11.30** *International Bowls*. Highlights of the singles final of the Embassy World Indoor championships, introduced by David Icke
- 12.30am** *Respect (?)*

CLAIMS

6.00 Hallelujah! (r) 6-30 Country Ways. Wryly, Wits, in July (r) 7.00 Growing Places with Penelope Keith (r) 7.30 Box Office Weekly 8.00 The Suffers 8.30 Children's Island. Episodes four 9.00 Dennis

9.25 Spice. Eastern arts magazine

10.00 A Week in Politics examines the poll tax and student loans

11.00 Boom! (r) 11.30 The Henderson Kids 12.00 The Watsons 1.00 Land of the Giants

2.00 Film: Confidential Agent (1945, b/w) starring Charles Boyer. Spanish Civil War drama directed by Herman Shumlin

4.10 Six Weeks' Life. A *Survival* documentary on the water shrew (r)

4.40 Out of the East: Hungarians are Comrades. How Hungarians are coping with their country's transformation to a liberal democracy

5.25 News summary and weather

6.30 Art of the Western World. The post-impressionist artists

6.00 4th Dimension

6.30 The Wonder Years

7.00 Fragile Earth: Hailing the Fires. An attractive look at the Amazon rain forests. (Oracle)

8.00 The Media Show includes a discussion on the image of gay people on television

9.00 Simfonia II-Sinfonia of the Uncertainties. Michael Tippett and his *Songs for David*

10.00 Film: Bequest to the Nation (1973) starring Peter Finch and Albert Jackson. Drama about Neilson's relationship with Lady Hamilton. Directed by James Clavian Jones.

12.15am Film: The Trace (1982) starring Mouna Noureddine. The story of a young girl trying to break out of the rigid constraints of her gender in a remote village in Tunisia. Directed by Nejla Ben Mabrouk. Subtitled. Ends 1.55

CATERPILLAR

SKY ONE

6.00am The Hour of Power **7.00** Fun Factory **11.00** The Hour of Power **12.00** Beyond 2000 **1.00pm** That's Incredible **2.00** WWF Superstars of Wrestling **89 3.00** The Incredible Hulk **4.00** Emergency **5.00** Eight Is Enough **6.00** Family Ties **7.00** 21 Jump Street **8.00** Condominium **10.00** Entertainment This Week **11.00** Sky World News Tonight **11.30** The Big Valley

SKY NEWS

News on the hour.
5:00am Sky News **5:30** The Best of
 Target **6:30** The Unesco Report **7:30** Our
 World **8:30** Those Were The Days **9:30**
 Planet Earth **10:30** The Unesco Report
11:30 Beyond 2000 **12:30pm** 48 Hours
1:30 Those Were The Days **2:30** Planet
 Earth **3:30** Our World **4:30** Beyond 2000
5:30 Entertainment This Week **6:30** The
 Unesco Report **7:30** Cops **8:30** Those
 Were The Days **9:30** 48 Hours **10:30**
 Entertainment This Week **11:30** Planet
 Earth **12:30am** Cops **1:30** Those Were The
 Days **2:30** 48 Hours **3:30** Entertainment
 This Week **4:30** Those Were The Days

SKY MOVIES

From 5.00am The Shopping Channel
2.00pm Carry On England (1976): The
Carry On team defend Britain during the
Second World War
4.00 Quiet Victory (1989): Michael Nouri
top athlete who is given only a year to
live
6.00 A Stoning In Fullham County
(1988): An Amish baby is killed by four
teenage boys
7.40 Projector: Movies on Sky
8.00 Long Journey Home (1987):
Meredith Baxter Sneye as a woman whose
husband is killed in Vietnam 10 years
10.00 Stakeout (1987): Richard
Dreyfuss and Emilio Estevez are assigned to
stakeout the home of an escaped
criminal's girlfriend
11.00 Heywood, Madam (1987):
Candice Bergen as a descendant of the
Mayflower pilgrims who becomes the
proprietor of a high-class New York escort
service
1.00 Action Jackson (1988): Carl
Weathers as a disgraced cop goes on the
trail of the crook who set him up
2.00 Promised Land (1987): Kiefer
Sutherland as a Southern farmer who
finds him and heads home to rejoin his
family. With Meg Ryan. Ends at 5.40am

EUROSPORT

**8.00am The Hour of Power 7.00 Fun
Factory 8.00 Cricket 10.00 Speedskating
11.00 Skiing 1.00pm Golf: American
Express Mediterranean Open 3.00 Rugby
Union: Five Nations Championships
5.00 Horse Show 7.00 Football 9.00 Golf
11.00 Skiing**

MTV

5.00am Ray Cokes 10.30 The Big Picture 11.00 European Top 20 12.30pm Club MTV 1.00 Paul King 4.30 Tears for Fears Interview 5.00 MTV's Greatest Hits 6.00 XPO 6.30 Kristiane Backer 9.30 New Views: World Beat 10.00 Week in Review 10.30 Club MTV 11.00 Video

SCREENSPORT

2.30am Argentinian Football **1.30**
Motor Racing **3.30** US Pro Ski Tour **4.00**
Spanish Football **6.00** Ice Skating **7.30**
Wide World of Sport **8.30** Basketball **10.00**
Towersports **11.00** Sailing **12.00**
Spanish Football **2.00pm** Golf **4.00** Motor
racing **6.00** Ice Hockey **8.00** Ice
skating **9.15** Argentinian Football **10.15**
The Harlem Globetrotters **11.30** Thai
boxing

Full information on satellite TV programmes is available in the weekly magazine *TV Guide*.

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FULLY STRANDED DESIGNER SILVER FOX COATS (2 ONLY)	£3,995	£995

Rowland down but not out in fight for Harrods

The chief executive of Lonrho will continue his obsessive struggle to gain control of House of Fraser, writes William Kay, despite a DTI ruling against any further action over the takeover of the group by the Fayed brothers in 1985



Strong-minded: for Tiny Rowland, the battle will continue

Tiny Rowland's quest for control of Harrods, the 141-year-old Knightsbridge department store, has been one of the most fascinating business stories of the 20th century: the determination of one man, in the face of successive reversals, to reach a chosen goal.

This week, Mr Rowland received another blow in his 14-year struggle when Mr Nicholas Ridley, the Trade Secretary, said he did not intend to take any further action in respect of the takeover of House of Fraser, the Harrods parent company, by the Egyptian-born Fayed brothers.

After the announcement, Lonrho, Mr Rowland's company, contented itself with predicting that there would be "a demand for action" when the DTI inspectors' report on the takeover is published on Wednesday.

Loudest in making those demands will be Mr Rowland himself. One suggestion is that he might challenge Mr Ridley's decision by asking the courts for a judicial review. Or he may attempt to sue the Fayed brothers through a civil action.

But, even though he will be 73 this year, Mr Rowland's unfailing determination, coupled with effectively unlimited reserves to pay legal fees, ensures he will find some means of continuing the fight.

While obsession, defined by the Oxford English Dictionary as "the action of any influence, notion or fixed idea which persistently assails or vexes", is the most accurate word to describe Mr Rowland's behaviour since 1976, it seems inadequate to encompass the fierce vendetta this strong-minded and charismatic man has pursued.

Mr Rowland joined Lonrho in 1961. Originally called the London and Rhodesia Mining and Land Company, he built it into an Africa-based trading business, buying and selling sugar, maize, copper, oil, asbestos, diamonds and other commodities. In the mid-1970s, he decided to expand Lonrho's interests in Britain, mainly because a change in the law made it expensive to pay dividends out of overseas earnings.

Although he acquired hotels and dabbled in manufacturing, his grand design was to build a British retailing empire, whose rich cash flows he could deploy elsewhere. Harrods was to be the centrepiece of that strategy. It was to be the greatest test of his claim to have "a deep animal instinct for the chemistry of people."

Born in India of German parents, Mr Rowland returned to Hamburg with his family in the 1920s and he briefly joined the Hitler Youth. In the 1930s the family moved to England, where he attended Churchers, a minor public school in Pet-

ersfield, Hampshire. After the war, he went into business, transferring to South Africa because of apparent unhappiness with the British tax system.

Lonrho's success rested on Mr Rowland's ability to persuade African political leaders to do business with him. They needed knowhow and contacts, but mistrusted most white entrepreneurs. He delivered.

In 1971, City confidence in Lonrho collapsed after two

directors were arrested in South Africa and two others resigned. So did SG Warburg as merchant bank advisers. The board called in Peat Marwick, the accountant, to report on the group's financial position.

They discovered a liquidity crisis, as a result of which Mr Rowland recruited non-executive directors to bolster confidence. They included the late Lord Duncan-Sandys, Sir Edward du Cann and Sir Basil Smallpiece, former head of

Conard. But Sir Basil organised a revolt which caused Mr Edward Heath, the then prime minister, to describe Lonrho as "an unpleasant and unacceptable face of capitalism."

Mr Rowland survived that and began to focus attention on Sir Hugh Fraser, who had effectively inherited House of Fraser from his father at the age of 29. Sir Hugh, who died in 1987, was identified by Mr Rowland as a man who cared more about gambling than the family business.

They developed a father-son relationship, joining one another's boards as Mr Rowland amassed a 29 per cent stake in House of Fraser. But he came up against the combined might of Warburg and Cazenove, Fraser's adviser and broker. In 1980, they brought on to the Fraser board the redoubtable Professor Roland Smith, now head of British Aerospace. He was to prove a mighty stumbling block.

In 1981, Lonrho made a full-scale bid, but it was stopped by the Monopolies and Mergers Commission. Another Monopolies inquiry was launched three years later into an attempt by Lonrho to appoint 12 Fraser directors.

That summer Mohamed Al-Fayed, who had been a Lonrho director in 1975, offered to buy Lonrho's stake in Fraser. Mr Rowland replied: "The acceptable thing for us would be an offer to all the shareholders."

In October, Mr Rowland changed his mind, allegedly in frustration at the Monopolies Commission report being further delayed. In March 1985, the Fayed made a full bid, with DTI approval.

Mr Rowland reacted like a wounded bear, howling that he had been unfairly denied. The Observer, owned by Lonrho, embarked on a campaign. The bid had been made in cash, but Mr Rowland has continued to question where the money came from, suggesting that the Fayed's false representation of their true wealth in order to win.

In 1987, Mr Paul Channon, Ridley's predecessor-but-one at the DTI, ordered an investigation into the deal. Publication of the inspectors' report has been delayed pending last week's decision by the Director of Public Prosecutions that "the evidence available is insufficient to afford a realistic prospect of conviction for any criminal offence relating to any matter of substance raised in the report."

However, the ambivalence contained in that statement surely gives Mr Rowland more than enough straws to clutch on to his belief that he should be the rightful owner of Harrods.

The new Germany passes Japan in superpower race



The tide of euphoria that swept the FT-SE index to 2,479 on January 4 has gone out. In differing degrees, all important equity markets, with the exception of Frankfurt, have had a similar experience.

They have not crashed: they have adjusted the value of shares - downward - in response to rising bond yields.

High interest rates are not exactly a new phenomenon in the UK, nor in the United States, but by encouraging them, the West German and Japanese central banks have postponed the day when it might be sensible to anticipate lower rates in London and New York. The equity market may remain in a dreary state for a while yet, but better dreary than dire.

The most potent factor shaping expectations in the money capitals of the world is not, however, high interest rates.

It is the grinding up of the two Germanys for unification and super power status. Six months ago, only Japan seemed to have the qualifications to sit on the right hand side of the United States.

With unification, the opening to the East and inevitable economic dominance in Europe as a whole, Germany's claims rival and probably now exceed Japan's.

This is a daunting prospect for the rest of the European Community.

Brussels fears that West Germany will relegate Community aspirations, for example for monetary union, in favour of the more immediate, practical benefits of drawing in East Germany.

For the West German economy, already at full stretch, a large German-speaking labour force is a massive boon. The Ministry of Finance, with his commitment to controlling asset prices (notably land but also securities) through absorbing East Germany is clearly

not without problems. Chancellor Helmut Kohl is wedded to German monetary union on the basis of parity - one East German mark for one West. This would mean an instant bonus for East Germans and a bonanza for those with savings to convert.

A wave of spending would add to inflationary pressures already implied in West Germany's commitment to provide financial aid to assist in East Germany's regeneration.

The West German central bank, zealous guardian of the value of the mark, has reservations but has let itself, for the time being, be carried along by the political will. Outside West Germany, the problems are being exaggerated, I suspect, out of wishful thinking.

West Germany has the scope and is unlikely to lack the determination to engineer German monetary union on a minimum inflation basis. Higher interest rates, already in train in the German bond market, is one safeguard.

A revaluation of the West German mark, through the impact it would have in raising imports and releasing West German resources for transfer to East Germany, is another.

For the moment however, it is the Bank of Japan, not the Bundesbank, that is driving the world's bond and equity markets.

The new Governor, Yasushi Mieno, has provoked a public dispute with the Ministry of Finance, with his commitment to controlling asset prices (notably land but also securities) through putting up the official discount rate and

taking money out of the system by propping up the yen. Mayhem in the Tokyo market, and some injury to London and Wall Street, is down to Mr Mieno.

While Japanese policy is best described as confused, it has also set the tone in London and New York. Both markets, with memories of the October 1987 crash still fresh in the memory, have shown surprising resilience. The prevailing sentiment in London remains bearish but not heavily so.

The volume of business has been wofully low with the managers of big investment funds content to leave the action to small and medium-sized players.

One of the lessons of 1987, and underlined in last autumn's sudden fall, is the difficulty fund managers may have in buying back good stock they sold when the market was diving. Another reason for remaining firmly on the sidelines and not rushing to sell is that relatively small selling orders will have a disproportionate impact on the market price. The main outcome of a sale of part of a holding could be to depress the value of stock still in the fund. For managers of huge funds, the exercise is self-defeating.

Statistical comparisons of share values in the US, Japan and Germany put UK equities in a reassuring light. The mood however is unlikely to turn positive until there is some good news from the economic front and/or the heat under the Government subsidies. The January trade figures and the latest money supply figures were not helpful but the Budget is little more than two weeks away (March 20).

The City is prepared to give John Major a fair wind. The one thing he would not be forgiven for relaxing his economic policy in response to Tory backbench pressures. The teenage scribbles who put Nigel Lawson in his place sense that Mr Major is on a winning course and should not deviate.

No quarter in a fight to the death

I remember, a long time ago, asking an Ulster colleague: "What is the answer to the Irish question?" His answer was simple and, as I came to realize, absolutely correct: "If you think there's an answer, you don't understand the question."

I have often thought that the 12 years war between Tiny Rowland and House of Fraser was akin to the Irish question - particularly so since March, 1985, when the Fayed brothers succeeded where Mr Rowland had failed - acquiring Fraser and with it the prize

both wanted, Harrods. The circumstances of the 1985 takeover are examined in a Department of Trade report which will be published, at last, on Wednesday.

The Secretary of State, Nicholas Ridley, has said that the Government does not intend to take any further action in the affair. That ought to be that but, of course, it won't be.

Details in the report will arouse renewed controversy but more important, for the two protagonists, Mr Rowland and Mohamed Al Fayed, this

is a life-long contest. No quarter is asked and none is given. Tiny is a formidable and unrelenting adversary, as he recently demonstrated in driving the Bond Corporation to its knees.

I can think of no-one in this country who would now even stand up to him, let alone have any chance of winning. The exception is Mohamed who is not only a match for him but is well ahead on points.

When, if ever, the full story is told I doubt whether anyone in this country will believe it.

Bricom sale earns £21m for B&C

British & Commonwealth has raised £21.6 million from the sale of the bulk of its 20 per cent stake in Bricom, the commercial services subsidiary sold to a management consortium for £400 million in June 1988. The proceeds compare with the original cost of the stake of £10.3 million.

Bricom's main activities are Bristow Helicopters and Steels, the in-flight caterer. The price reflects an 800 per cent rise in the value of its ordinary shares.

Offer closed

The international offer of new shares in France's Union des Assurances de Paris was fully subscribed and closed last night two weeks ahead of schedule. The French part of the £10.6 billion (£1.1 billion) issue is selling very slowly.

TSA idea

The Securities Association, the Stock Exchange regulatory body, is considering empowering its complaints bureau to order firms to pay compensation of up to £500 if they fail to deal responsibly with an investor's complaint.

Plan dropped

Benchmark Group has dropped plans to merge Charlton Seal Schavens, its stock-broking arm, with National Investment Holdings. It will now be reorganized into three divisions.

Further falls for Fine Art shares

By Gillian Bowditch

Shares in Fine Art Developments, the greeting card and mail order business, fell a further 12p to 218p yesterday when it gave warning that profits for the year to March 1990 would be barely up on last year's £22.6 million.

Brokers have been downgrading profits from about £27 million, wiping £28.3 million off the company's value as the shares fell by 15 per cent.

The company said that while the general mail order business had a successful autumn, the spring campaign was very disappointing with sales down on last year and the business not covering its costs.

Venture Marketing, the personal shopping mail order business, has also experienced poor results and Paperette, the card shops, have suffered from the retail downturn.

Fine Art's results have also been hit by the delayed £14 million sale of the group's Australian operations to EPL.

the Dutch conglomerate. Mr Keith Chapman, the chairman, said that while mail order had had a good autumn, spring was disastrous. Venture Marketing will make a loss and the group is believed to be considering selling the business. The Paperette chain, reduced from 120 to 90 shops, will be cut down further.

Miss Kimlan Cook of Smith New Court, who downgraded her profit forecast on Thursday from £27.5 million to £23 million, says £1.5 million of the downgrading related to Venture Marketing, £2 million to the over-expansion at Paperette and £1 million to the delay in the sale of the Australian business. But she believes the shares are a good long-term buy at their present level.

Mr Charles Allen at County NatWest agrees. "At the end of the day you have to realize this is a business which is expected to make more money than Storehouse this year."

Inoco slumps into loss

Inoco, the property group, made a pre-tax loss of £2.66 million in 1989, against a profit of £2.29 million, and issued a warning that there will be further losses until interest rates fall.

There is no dividend (0.225p) on a loss of 1.8p a

share (earnings of 1.90p). While operating profits advanced from £5.36 million to £6.48 million, interest charges jumped from £2.19 million to £7.03 million. Inoco's shares were traded at 12p yesterday compared with a year-end net asset value of 41p.

Blue Arrow case sent for trial

Ten men, a woman and three companies charged in connection with the alleged £837 million Blue Arrow fraud, were committed to the Central Criminal Court for trial by City of London Magistrates.

It is believed to be the first time corporate charges have been brought and centres around the August 1987 flotation of Blue Arrow, the employment agency.

The charged were allowed bail with a surety or sureties in varying amounts, passports to be surrendered, not to discuss the case with named witnesses and to notify police of any change of address.

Accused are: County NatWest, the merchant banking arm of National Westminster; NatWest Investment Bank; and UBS Phillips and Drew, the stockbroker; Mr Charles Villiers, aged 48, former chairman at County NatWest; Mr Jonathan Cohen, aged 44, its former chief executive; and Mr Timothy Brown, aged 45, managing director of P&D.

Mr Nicholas Wells, aged 35, and Mr David Reed, aged 42, both former directors in County NatWest's corporate advisory division; Miss Elizabeth Brinklow, aged 38, former director of County NatWest; Mr Stephen Clark, aged 41, County NatWest finance director; Mr Alan Keat, aged 47, former legal adviser to County NatWest; Mr Martin Gibbs, aged 60, former head of corporate finance at P&D; Mr Paul Smallwood, aged 55, director of British equity sales at P&D; and Mr Christopher Stanforth, aged 36, former transaction team leader of corporate finance at P&D.

Hampden builds to £1.49m

By Melinda Wittstock

Hampden Homecare, the Belfast-based DIY store operator which is 29.9 per cent owned by Ladbroke's Texas Homecare subsidiary, has increased 1989 pre-tax profits by 6.4 per cent to £1.49 million despite what it characterized as a "severe downturn in consumer expenditure."

Turnover at the company, which opened two more Texas Homecare stores in Northern Ireland in 1989, was up 0.5 per

cent to £20.7 million, while operating margins were unchanged at 6.1 per cent.

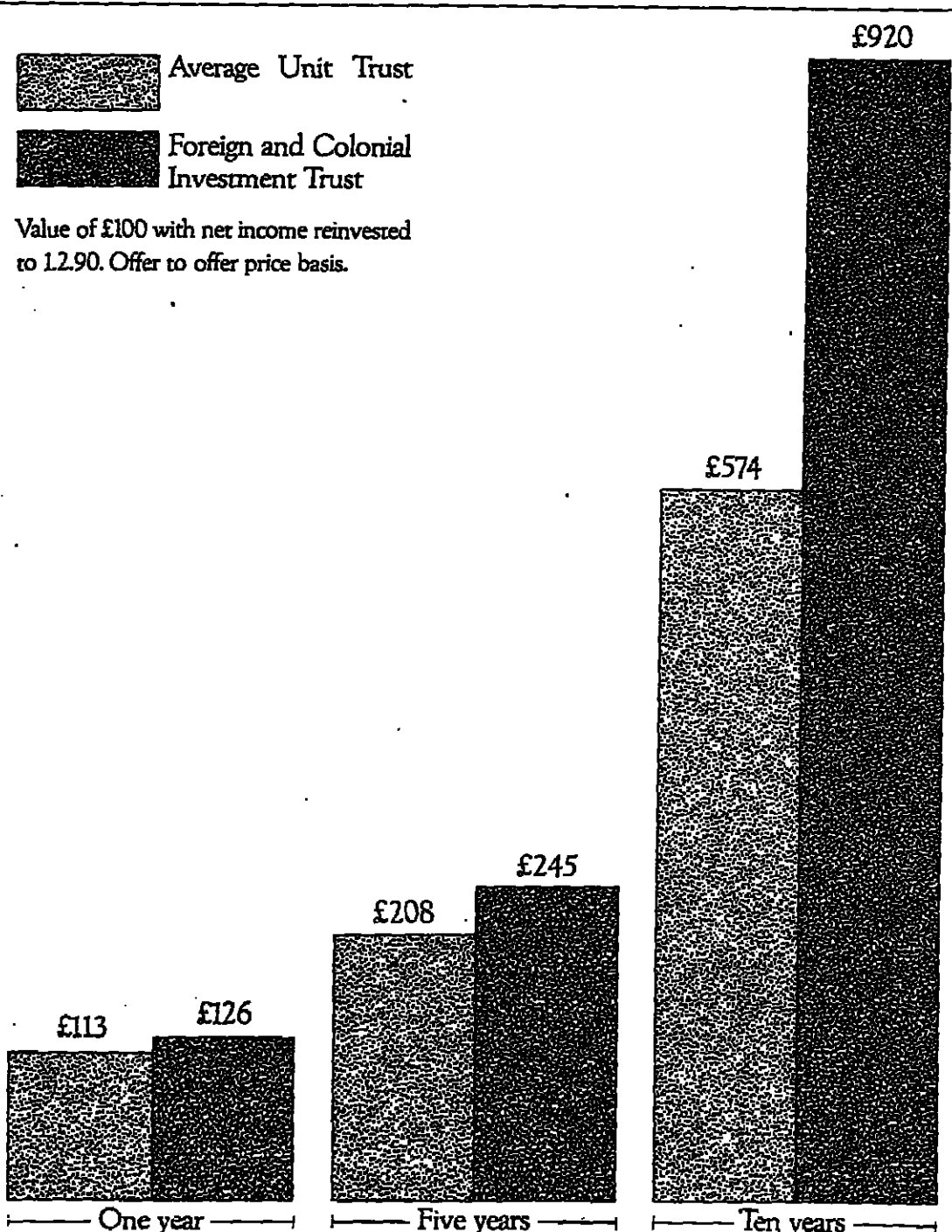
Earnings per share slipped from 9.11p to 7.6p. The final dividend is up from 1.5p to 1.6p, making a total of 2.1p, against 2p last time.

Hampden said it is to open up three more Texas Homecare superstores in Dublin.

Under Hampden's joint venture with Kwik-Fit Holdings, the car repair business,

Hampden has opened up five more Kwik-Fit centres bringing the total to nine in Northern Ireland.

Hampden said that despite difficult trading conditions, the division performed satisfactorily and is well-placed for further expansion.



Louder than words.

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Prices recorded are at 4 pm. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Where one price is quoted, it is a middle price. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices. (as) denotes Alpha Stocks.

From your Portfolio Platinum card check your eight share price movements on this page only. Add these prices to your running total for the week and check this against the weekly dividend figure on this page. If it matches this figure, you have won outright or a share of the total weekly prize money stated. If you win, follow the claim procedure on the back of your card. You must always have your card available when claiming. Game rules appear on the back of your card.

No.	Company	Group	Gals or less
1	DeWitt	Motors,Aircraft	
2	Microfilm Repro	Electronics	
3	Robinson (Thomas)	Industrials L-R	
4	Boots (sa)	Industrials A-D	
5	Newsp Corp	Newspapers, Pub	
6	Uni Biscuits (sa)	Food	
7	Maruch Marsh	Industrials E-K	
8	Alumac	Industrials A-D	
9	RMC Gr (sa)	Building, Roads	
10	Pendragon	Motors, Aircraft	
11	Harris (Philip)	Industrials E-K	
12	Parsons	Industrials L-R	
13	Land Sec (sa)	Property	
14	MEPC (sa)	Property	
15	Century	Oil/Gas	
16	Hudson Simon	Electronics	
17	LASMO (sa)	Oil/Gas	
18	Brierley Inc	Industrials A-D	
19	Mercies (John)	Drapery, Stores	
20	Chronics Int	Industrials A-D	
21	Enterprise (sa)	Oil/Gas	
22	Sheehy	Building, Roads	
23	Ludbrook (sa)	Hotels, Caterers	
24	Community Hospital	Industrials A-D	
25	Electron House	Electronics	
26	Norcross	Industrials L-R	
27	SEC Oil (sa)	Industrials A-D	
28	BICC (sa)	Electronics	
29	Raymond Williams	Building, Roads	
30	TI (sa)	Industrials S-Z	
31	Finsen (sa)	Industrials E-K	
32	Ultramar (sa)	Oil/Gas	
33	Smiths Ind (sa)	Industrials S-Z	
34	Westpac	Bank, Discount	
35	Unilever (sa)	Industrials S-Z	
36	Williams Ridge (sa)	Industrials S-Z	
37	Grampian	Leisure	
38	Budgen	Food	
39	Tiphook	Transport	
40	Davis (Godfrey)	Industrials A-D	
41	Southern Prop	Property	
42	Equity & Gen	Motors, Aircraft	
43	McKeeMc	Industrials L-R	
44	GKN (sa)	Industrials E-K	
Times Newspapers Ltd.		Daily Total	

**Please take into account any
minus signs**

Weekly Dividend

Please make a note of your daily totals for the weekly dividend of £4,000 in today's newspaper.

MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	Weekly Total

1988/89					
High	Low	Stock	Price	Chgs	In Only Gross york yark

SHORTS (Under Five Years)

94%	94%	94%	25%	1990	94%	..	2.6	10.942
95%	91%	Trans	3%	1990	95%	..	3.0	12.054
96%	91%	Trans	8%	1990	97%	..	8.30	71.983
96%	92%	Trans	81%	1987-90	99%	..		

[illegible]

80%	Expn	101%	1985	91%	-%	4.08	12.555
87%	Trans	12%	1985	80%	-%	71.1	12.478
101%	Trans	124%	1985	101%	-%	12.2	12.558
101%	Trans				-%	12.5	12.558

[illegible]

06%	French	100%	2000-05	84%	-5	11.1	11.283	213
73%	French	8%	2000-08	108%	-5	11.7	11.562	208
30%	French	8%	2000-08	75	-5	10.5	11.206	136
								87

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BANKS, DISCOUNT HP	198	105
	132	908
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222	Florida Express	371
223	Frontier	291	7.3	2.9
224	Frontier	310	14.0	4.4
225	Frontier	275	14.0	4.4
226	Frontier	275	14.0	4.4
227	Frontier	275	14.0	4.4
228	Frontier	275	14.0	4.4
229	Frontier	275	14.0	4.4
230	Frontier	275	14.0	4.4
231	Frontier	275	14.0	4.4
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City Centre West	28	28	15	41	127
Franchise Hotels	288	273	3.9	14	119
Lufthansa (inc)	285	280	11.8	4.0	74
Marriott Charlotte	62	62	2.5	10	180
Marriott Capital	39	39	6.7	1.8	158
Marriott Hotels	38	38	2.7	4.8	74
Marriott Renaissance	53	53	3.9	3.1	126
Marriott Renaissance	20	20	8.8	4.1	365
Marriott Renaissance	139	139	7.3	0.8	31
Marriott Renaissance	88	88	2.5	2.5	171
Marriott Renaissance	88	88	2.5	2.5	171
Marriott Renaissance	285	270	12.2	4.6	170
Marriott Renaissance					185

[illegible]

200	177	175	173	171	169	167	165	163	161	159	157	155	153	151	149	147	145	143	141	139	137	135	133	131	129	127	125	123	121	119	117	115	113	111	109	107	105	103	101	99	97	95	93	91	89	87	85	83	81	79	77	75	73	71	69	67	65	63	61	59	57	55	53	51	49	47	45	43	41	39	37	35	33	31	29	27	25	23	21	19	17	15	13	11	9	7	5	3	1	-1	-3	-5	-7	-9	-11	-13	-15	-17	-19	-21	-23	-25	-27	-29	-31	-33	-35	-37	-39	-41	-43	-45	-47	-49	-51	-53	-55	-57	-59	-61	-63	-65	-67	-69	-71	-73	-75	-77	-79	-81	-83	-85	-87	-89	-91	-93	-95	-97	-99	-101	-103	-105	-107	-109	-111	-113	-115	-117	-119	-121	-123	-125	-127	-129	-131	-133	-135	-137	-139	-141	-143	-145	-147	-149	-151	-153	-155	-157	-159	-161	-163	-165	-167	-169	-171	-173	-175	-177	-179	-181	-183	-185	-187	-189	-191	-193	-195	-197	-199	-201	-203	-205	-207	-209	-211	-213	-215	-217	-219	-221	-223	-225	-227	-229	-231	-233	-235	-237	-239	-241	-243	-245	-247	-249	-251	-253	-255	-257	-259	-261	-263	-265	-267	-269	-271	-273	-275	-277	-279	-281	-283	-285	-287	-289	-291	-293	-295	-297	-299	-301	-303	-305	-307	-309	-311	-313	-315	-317	-319	-321	-323	-325	-327	-329	-331	-333	-335	-337	-339	-341	-343	-345	-347	-349	-351	-353	-355	-357	-359	-361	-363	-365	-367	-369	-371	-373	-375	-377	-379	-381	-383	-385	-387	-389	-391	-393	-395	-397	-399	-401	-403	-405	-407	-409	-411	-413	-415	-417	-419	-421	-423	-425	-427	-429	-431	-433	-435	-437	-439	-441	-443	-445	-447	-449	-451	-453	-455	-457	-459	-461	-463	-465	-467	-469	-471	-473	-475	-477	-479	-481	-483	-485	-487	-489	-491	-493	-495	-497	-499	-501	-503	-505	-507	-509	-511	-513	-515	-517	-519	-521	-523	-525	-527	-529	-531	-533	-535	-537	-539	-541	-543	-545	-547	-549	-551	-553	-555	-557	-559	-561	-563	-565	-567	-569	-571	-573	-575	-577	-579	-581	-583	-585	-587	-589	-591	-593	-595	-597	-599	-601	-603	-605	-607	-609	-611	-613	-615	-617	-619	-621	-623	-625	-627	-629	-631	-633	-635	-637	-639	-641	-643	-645	-647	-649	-651	-653	-655	-657	-659	-661	-663	-665	-667	-669	-671	-673	-675	-677	-679	-681	-683	-685	-687	-689	-691	-693	-695	-697	-699	-701	-703	-705	-707	-709	-711	-713	-715	-717	-719	-721	-723	-725	-727	-729	-731	-733	-735	-737	-739	-741	-743	-745	-747	-749	-751	-753	-755	-757	-759	-761	-763	-765	-767	-769	-771	-773	-775	-777	-779	-781	-783	-785	-787	-789	-791	-793	-795	-797	-799	-801	-803	-805	-807	-809	-811	-813	-815	-817	-819	-821	-823	-825	-827	-829	-831	-833	-835	-837	-839	-841	-843	-845	-847	-849	-851	-853	-855	-857	-859	-861	-863	-865	-867	-869
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one	76	+0.2	80	82.3	79	
one	100	+0.2	100	100	100	
one half	176	+0.3	176	176	167	
one	179	+0.3	179	179	167	
one	180	+0.3	180	180	167	
one	181	+0.3	181	181	167	
one	182	+0.3	182	182	167	
one	183	+0.3	183	183	167	
one	184	+0.3	184	184	167	
one	185	+0.3	185	185	167	
one	186	+0.3	186	186	167	
one	187	+0.3	187	187	167	
one	188	+0.3	188	188	167	
one	189	+0.3	189	189	167	
one	190	+0.3	190	190	167	
one	191	+0.3	191	191	167	
one	192	+0.3	192	192	167	
one	193	+0.3	193	193	167	
one	194	+0.3	194	194	167	
one	195	+0.3	195	195	167	
one	196	+0.3	196	196	167	
one	197	+0.3	197	197	167	
one	198	+0.3	198	198	167	
one	199	+0.3	199	199	167	
one	200	+0.3	200	200	167	
one	201	+0.3	201	201	167	
one	202	+0.3	202	202	167	
one	203	+0.3	203	203	167	
one	204	+0.3	204	204	167	
one	205	+0.3	205	205	167	
one	206	+0.3	206	206	167	
one	207	+0.3	207	207	167	
one	208	+0.3	208	208	167	
one	209	+0.3	209	209	167	
one	210	+0.3	210	210	167	
one	211	+0.3	211	211	167	
one	212	+0.3	212	212	167	
one	213	+0.3	213	213	167	
one	214	+0.3	214	214	167	
one	215	+0.3	215	215	167	
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one	218	+0.3	218	218	167	
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one	225	+0.3	225	225	167	
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one	228	+0.3	228	228	167	
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one	230	+0.3	230	230	167	
one	231	+0.3	231	231	167	
one	232	+0.3	232	232	167	
one	233	+0.3	233	233	167	
one	234	+0.3	234	234	167	
one	235	+0.3	235	235	167	
one	236	+0.3	236	236	167	
one	237	+0.3	237	237	167	
one	238	+0.3	238	238	167	
one	239	+0.3	239	239	167	
one	240	+0.3	240	240	167	
one	241	+0.3	241	241	167	
one	242	+0.3	242	242	167	
one	243	+0.3	243	243	167	
one	244	+0.3	244	244	167	
one	245	+0.3	245	245	167	
one	246	+0.3	246	246	167	
one	247	+0.3	247	247	167	
one	248	+0.3	248	248	167	

[illegible]

Rank	Team	Points	Score	Rank	Team	Points	Score
72.4	771	273	Amesbury	570	590	-8	28.0
72.8	771	273	Amesbury	570	590	-8	28.0
73.0	167	172	Concord	570	590	-8	28.0
73.2	167	172	Concord	570	590	-8	28.0
73.4	167	172	Concord	570	590	-8	28.0
73.6	167	172	Concord	570	590	-8	28.0
73.8	167	172	Concord	570	590	-8	28.0
74.0	167	172	Concord	570	590	-8	28.0
74.2	167	172	Concord	570	590	-8	28.0
74.4	167	172	Concord	570	590	-8	28.0
74.6	167	172	Concord	570	590	-8	28.0
74.8	167	172	Concord	570	590	-8	28.0
75.0	167	172	Concord	570	590	-8	28.0
75.2	167	172	Concord	570	590	-8	28.0
75.4	167	172	Concord	570	590	-8	28.0
75.6	167	172	Concord	570	590	-8	28.0
75.8	167	172	Concord	570	590	-8	28.0
76.0	167	172	Concord	570	590	-8	28.0
76.2	167	172	Concord	570	590	-8	28.0
76.4	167	172	Concord	570	590	-8	28.0
76.6	167	172	Concord	570	590	-8	28.0
76.8	167	172	Concord	570	590	-8	28.0
77.0	167	172	Concord	570	590	-8	28.0
77.2	167	172	Concord	570	590	-8	28.0
77.4	167	172	Concord	570	590	-8	28.0
77.6	167	172	Concord	570	590	-8	28.0
77.8	167	172	Concord	570	590	-8	28.0
78.0	167	172	Concord	570	590	-8	28.0
78.2	167	172	Concord	570	590	-8	28.0
78.4	167	172	Concord	570	590	-8	28.0
78.6	167	172	Concord	570	590	-8	28.0
78.8	167	172	Concord	570	590	-8	28.0
79.0	167	172	Concord	570	590	-8	28.0
79.2	167	172	Concord	570	590	-8	28.0
79.4	167	172	Concord	570	590	-8	28.0
79.6	167	172	Concord	570	590	-8	28.0
79.8	167	172	Concord	570	590	-8	28.0
80.0	167	172	Concord	570	590	-8	28.0

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191	192	193	194	195	196	197	198	199	200	201	202	203	204	205	206	207	208	209	210	211	212	213	214	215	216	217	218	219	220	221	222	223	224	225	226	227	228	229	230	231	232	233	234	235	236	237	238	239	240	241	242	243	244	245	246	247	248	249	250	251	252	253	254	255	256	257	258	259	260	261	262	263	264	265	266	267	268	269	270	271	272	273	274	275	276	277	278	279	280	281	282	283	284	285	286	287	288	289	290	291	292	293	294	295	296	297	298	299	300	301	302	303	304	305	306	307	308	309	310	311	312	313	314	315	316	317	318	319	320	321	322	323	324	325	326	327	328	329	330	331	332	333	334	335	336	337	338	339	340	341	342	343	344	345	346	347	348	349	350	351	352	353	354	355	356	357	358	359	360	361	362	363	364	365	366	367	368	369	370	371	372	373	374	375	376	377	378	379	380	381	382	383	384	385	386	387	388	389	390	391	392	393	394	395	396	397	398	399	400	401	402	403	404	405	406	407	408	409	410	411	412	413	414	415	416	417	418	419	420	421	422	423	424	425	426	427	428	429	430	431	432	433	434	435	436	437	438	439	440	441	442	443	444	445	446	447	448	449	450	451	452	453	454	455	456	457	458	459	460	461	462	463	464	465	466	467	468	469	470	471	472	473	474	475	476	477	478	479	480	481	482	483	484	485	486	487	488	489	490	491	492	493	494	495	496	497	498	499	500	501	502	503	504	505	506	507	508	509	510	511	512	513	514	515	516	517	518	519	520	521	522	523	524	525	526	527	528	529	530	531	532	533	534	535	536	537	538	539	540	541	542	543	544	545	546	547	548	549	550	551	552	553	554	555	556	557	558	559	560	561	562	563	564	565	566	567	568	569	570	571	572	573	574	575	576	577	578	579	580	581	582	583	584	585	586	587	588	589	590	591	592	593	594	595	596	597	598	599	600	601	602	603	604	605	606	607	608	609	610	611	612	613	614	615	616	617	618	619	620	621	622	623	624	625	626	627	628	629	630	631	632	633	634	635	636	637	638	639	640	641	642	643	644	645	646	647	648	649	650	651	652	653	654	655	656	657	658	659	660	661	662	663	664	665	666	667	668	669	670	671	672	673	674	675	676	677	678	679	680	681	682	683	684	685	686	687	688	689	690	691	692	693	694	695	696	697	698	699	700	701
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59	Hendrix	72	79	..	2.91	3.8	11.3
113	Leahurst Hoonath	175	180	..	12.7	7.1	..
51	Pinkett Ginnar	105	115	++	8.1	7.4	..
70	Strong & Fisher	48	53	-1	18.4	32.2	..
250	Style	298	318	..	9.3	3.0	88.4

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BAT (in)	800	805	+15	40.0	5.0	10.5
PJ Current	140	150	+10			
Release "B" (in)	815	822	+7	18.4	2.8	11.3

Asia and Pacific	562	600				
BAA (M)	335	350	++	14.7	2.5	15.8
BAA (M)	186	198	++	12.3	3.4	14.1
BK Atlantic (M)	186	198	++	14.0	5.4	8.8
Calsonic	320	350		14.0	5.4	8.8
Chrysler (M)	716	720	++	6.7	4.0	13.7
Daimler & Benz	650	650		22.7	3.9	8.0
Daimler & Benz	550	570				
Deere & Co.	132	137	++	5.4	4.0	16.1
Deere & Co.	178	186		5.9	2.3	26.9
Deere & Co.	78	71		6.7	8.1	21.0
Deere & Co.	148	152	++	6.7	8.1	21.0

James Wilson	300	325	163	50	15.1
P & O (M) (m)	305	310	12	7.9	4.3
P & O 5.5%	305	310	36.7	40.8	11.8
Power Dairies	352	357	28.1	7.8	10.3
Remington (Wm)	520	540	18.0	20	28.8
TRG Group	202	205	8.7	3.3	14.4
INT	219	219			
Robert & Brian	285	275	-3.3	3.2	72.8
Trinity	491	491	19.7	21	14.4
Transport Ltd	220	220	12.7	8.7	11.2
Woolrich Socy	220	240	9.7	4.7	12.1

	178	178	+1	20.4	11.5	
Anglin Water	180	183		21.4	11.5	4.3
North West	181	182		21.0	11.5	2.5
South West	144	150	+3.4	23.0	12.0	3.8
Green Tank	150	154		22.0	12.0	3.4
North West	180	182		21.0	9.9	3.4
Harbor Water	182	184	+2	22.4	9.1	3.7
Green Water	177	181	+3	22.4	8.5	3.9
Green Water	180	181	+1	22.4	11.0	3.8
Green Water	181	184	+3	23.3	11.2	3.8
Green Water	182	185	+3	23.0	10.5	4.3
Ecology Unit	178	178				

● Ex dividend a Ex alt b Forecast dividend e Interim payment passed f Price at suspension g Dividend and yield exclude a special payment h Pre-merger figures i Forecast earnings o Ex other j Ex rights k Ex scrip or share split l Tax-free ... No significant data.

● Ex dividend. ● Cum dividend. ● Cum stock split. ● Ex stock split. ● Cum (any two or more of above). ● Ex (any two or more of above). Dealing valuation days: (1) Monday, (2) Tuesday, (3) Wednesday, (4) Thursday, (5) Friday.

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Edited by Jon Ashworth

FAMILY MONEY

SATURDAY MARCH 3 1990

INSIDE

Unlucky draw

The ABI is to study a firm which uses cash prizes to lure would-be clients. Page 24

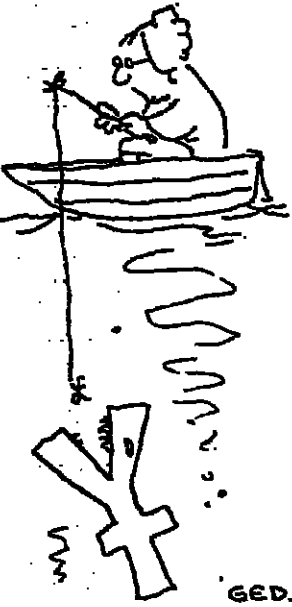
Foreign gamble

Foreign currency mortgages promise big savings but can double the losses for unlucky borrowers. Page 24

Home moan

Paying for home insurance along with the mortgage each month could add hundreds of pounds if you pay through a building society. Page 25

Unit trusts special report



How even the worst unit trust may be better than the building society. Page 28

Europe is set to take over Asia's crown as the investment sector to watch in the 1990s. Page 29

Experts deliver verdicts on unit trust high-fliers of today and tomorrow. Page 30

Money unit trusts make the most of a tax loophole to give big savings to small investors. Page 31

Offshore warning in Tokyo

Japan's stock market crisis has revealed the dangers of some investment funds, writes Jon Ashworth

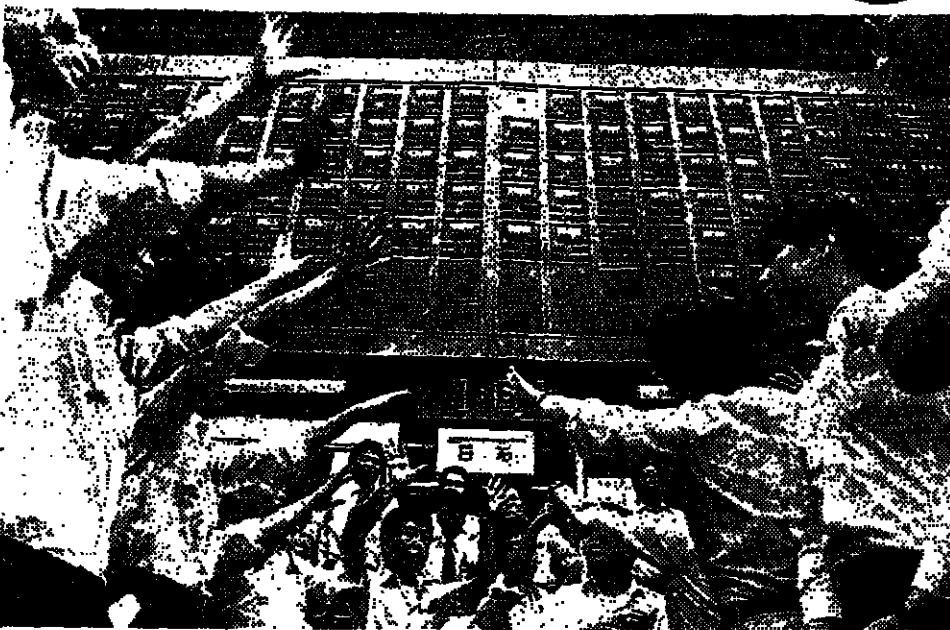
The huge falls on the Tokyo Stock Market this week have highlighted the dangers of offshore funds which invest in Japanese warrants. The value of the funds, including MIM Britannia's Nippon Warrant Fund and Gartmore's Japan Warrant fund, have plunged by up to 26 per cent in a matter of weeks.

Mr Francis Pike, director of Japanese and Asian Markets at MIM Britannia International in Jersey, said the high gearing of the Nippon Warrant Fund had always been stressed, adding: "We have always said that this fund was going to be volatile in relation to the stock market. The fund has been down 26 per cent against a fall in shares of 12 per cent, but relatively this is not as bad as it sounds."

An investment of \$5,000 placed in the Nippon Warrant Fund when it was launched in August, 1986, would have grown to \$34,150 offer-to-offer by November 1, 1989. On the basis of a 26 per cent loss, the same amount would now be worth \$40,071.

Mr Pike said it was unlikely that the market would fall much further, adding: "In the past 10 years there have been at least half a dozen occasions when the market has fallen 15 per cent. This tends to be forgotten." He advised investors not to sell.

Gartmore's Japan Warrant Fund, also registered in Luxembourg, has fallen more than 22 per cent since January. Mr Bruce Seton, a director of Gartmore Investment Management, said the fund



Dealing days: heavy losses on the Tokyo Stock Exchange took their toll on offshore funds

was still 8.75 times up on its launch level in January 1986. On a launch price of \$1 per share, it peaked at \$10.90, including a dividend of 30 cents, and was trading at \$8.28 on Thursday, after a second 30 cents payout. An investment of \$5,000 at launch would have peaked at \$54,500 and been trading near \$41,400 this week. Mr Seton said: "The warrant market probably peaked in December and has been drifting off since then. If the index is off 10 per cent, the fund would be off 30 per cent, on a gearing of 3.5."

Due to their volatility, UK funds can only put up to 5 per cent of their assets into war-

rants. But offshore funds such as Nippon Warrant and Japan Warrant are not restricted, significantly raising the prospect of sharp gains or losses.

MIM Britannia advises clients to put no more than 10 per cent of their portfolio into Nippon Warrant, allowing an effective exposure to Japanese equities of about 35 per cent. It gives warning that investors may not get back the amount originally invested because Japanese equity warrants can be a volatile investment.

The index reached 26,600 before the October 1987 Crash, falling to 21,200 by the end of the year. It had begun to rally by January 1988.

Mr Caspar Luard, Japanese institutional salesman at Nomura International, blamed the recent sharp falls on a weak bond market and a split between the Bank of Japan and the Ministry of Finance over interest rate policy.

Market worries were exacerbated by futures-related arbitrage involving US houses such as Morgan Stanley and Salomon Brothers. The Nikkei 225 future expires on March 8, increasing volatility.

Mr Luard expects Tokyo to remain unstable for the next six weeks, gradually picking up from the middle of April.

He said: "The Japanese Gross National Product is still growing at 4 per cent - faster than any other economy. A respectable return can be expected, but nothing like the gains seen in 1987/1988."

Mr Ian Vose, investment director of Morgan Grenfell Unit Trust Managers, said little headway could be expected in the next three months.

He said: "We expect the market to remain volatile, but a good manager should be able to make money." He recommends a switch from smaller companies to blue chips.

Joining the rush for fixed rates

Borrowers are falling over themselves to snap up mortgages with fixed rates well below the 15.4 per cent set by the Abbey National two weeks ago (Jon Ashworth writes).

Girobank and Firstdirect are top of the league with three-year fixed rate plans at 12.95 per cent and 12.99 per cent respectively. Barclays Bank has a two-year mortgage, pegging the rate at 13.4 per cent, while the Yorkshire and Skipton societies offer mortgages at 13.75 per cent fixed for three years.

The Yorkshire loan is in its third tranche, after the first two were snapped up in hours. A spokesman said: "We had about 1,000 applications for our 13.5 per cent two-year loan which went in 24 hours. About 1,700 people applied for the second 13.95 per cent loan, and the new one is going very quickly."

The society set aside £50 million for each of the earlier issues. The Skipton, which launches its 13.75 per cent three-year loan on Monday, said early interest had been high.

A spokesman said: "The branches think it will sell very quickly and very well. It may not be such a good deal at the end of three years, but people are prepared to take a small amount of risk."

The Skipton has set aside £50 million to begin with, but may increase it depending on the response. The minimum loan is £20,000.

National & Provincial has a three-year fixed rate mortgage at 13.85 per cent. The Leeds Permanent's 13.35 per cent three-year plan has sold out.

Future looks bright for savers

Whatever happens in Tokyo, investors in Britain have the security of higher savings rates to look forward to. Some building societies have raised theirs by up to 1 per cent, with others certain to follow.

The Portsmouth Building Society has launched a one-year account paying 13 per cent interest on as little as £15,000 - one of the best deals presently available. The Guardian Building Society is paying 12.85 per cent on similar terms, but savers may do well to wait a week or two before rushing into any fixed rate deals.

"It's very difficult to know what to go for at the moment," said Miss Kathryn Deane, of the *Good Savings Guide*. "I would recommend savers to keep their money in an instant access account until

at least the end of next week. By then the situation should be less confused."

Shield Assurance is paying 12.3 per cent interest on £5,000 or more invested in its Guaranteed Income Bond over one year. Other top GIB rates include 12.3 per cent from American Life on £25,000, and 12.5 per cent from New Direction Finance on £100,000. American Life pays a peak rate of 12.6 per cent, but the minimum investment is £500,000.

Premier II, a two-year bond from the Yorkshire Building Society, pays 12.5 per cent net on £10,000 or more. No partial withdrawals are permitted. Scarborough Building Society has a six-month fixed interest share account, Summer Six, paying 11.75 per cent net on

£1,000 or more. Northern Rock Building Society has a personal time deposit account paying interest gross on £50,000 or more locked in from one month to a year. Rates vary daily, but anyone investing on Thursday stood to make 14.875 per cent fixed for the whole of the term.

The Halifax has a top rate of 12.25 per cent net on its Capital XtraAccount. Leeds Permanent pays 12.5 per cent net monthly on £25,000 in Special Edition, its 12-month term account. The Woolwich pays 12.5 per cent on £10,000 in its one-year term account. Lloyds Bank has launched a fixed rate deposit account paying 12 per cent net on £5,000. On £50,000, the account pays gross interest of 15.4 per cent.

Unit trust ombudsman with plenty to complain about

By Barbara Ellis

Unit trust investors who wish to complain about poor service may face a frustrating time, according to the unit trust ombudsman.

Since the ombudsman scheme was set up just over a year ago, only 60 of the 160 unit trust companies have joined it. Complaints about non-members have to be referred to regulators like the Securities Association, so increasing the chance of delays.

Disputes at this muddle caused the first unit trust ombudsman to quit after only a few months. But this week his successor, Mr Adrian Parsons, cheerfully claimed that nobody was being allowed to slip through the net.

Business has been slow for unit trusts and in its first 15 months the ombudsman has handled just 45 cases, deciding six in favour of complainants,

and ordering one company to pay out £10,000 - well short of the £100,000 maximum allowed under the scheme.

"At the moment, each complaint costs us more than it should," said Mr Parsons. "It's like a company. It will take a year or two to become cost-effective."

But lack of enthusiasm from the unit trust companies could put a damper on long-term plans. Mr Tony Smith, chief executive of the Unit Trust Association, said that almost all unit trust management groups were members of the Investment Managers Regulatory Organization and pay for a referee scheme through their subscription.

"They are reluctant to pay yet again for the unit trust ombudsman," he said, suggesting that if Imro reduced its subscription this would be an

incentive for companies to join the ombudsman scheme.

Noting that misunderstandings were the prime cause of disputes, Mr Parsons suggested an additional warning for publicity material, to say that unit trusts were not suitable for short-term investment.

He also suggested that unit trust companies be allowed to stop printing "cancellation" prices on their contract notes, since these bear no relation to what an investor would get if the deal were cancelled - they record the price at which the group itself cancel units.

Asked whether he would favour the idea of grading unit trusts by degree of risk, as recommended by the Securities and Investment Board, Mr Parsons said he had not really thought about it: "I am very new to this work," he said.

The salesmen who mix business with pressure

Investors have been warned not to part with their money just because an annual deadline is looming on the calendar. "Buy now before it's too late" is a familiar cry as the Budget and new tax year draw nearer. But investors who are pressured into buying may kick themselves later on.

A combination of the Budget on March 20 and the fiscal year-end on April 5 has swelled the yearly ritual of "deadline selling". Sedgwick's Financial Services, part of the Sedgwick's insurance group, has warned investors to look at their needs and objectives first before rushing into any decisions.

"A lot of people are encouraging a lemming-like frenzy," says Mr David

Blundell, marketing director of the company's personal financial management division. "Quite a few people will be buying because of a deadline even though it may not always suit their circumstances."

Personal Equity Plans, Business Expansion Schemes and free-standing Additional Voluntary Contributions are frequently sold on the back of a specific deadline. Investors may also be urged to contract out of Serps - the State Earnings Related Pension Scheme - before April 5, or take out life assurance before a change in legislation.

"Forceful deadline selling does not serve the interests of any financial institution," says Mr Blundell.

PORTFOLIO

For readers who may have missed a copy of *The Times* this week we repeat below the week's *Portfolio* price changes (today's are on page 21).

Week	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat	Sun
1	+1	+6	+8	+3	+2		
2	+1	+2	+7	+6	+1		
3	+5	+4	+5	+4	+3		
4	+1	+6	+5	+4	+4		
5	+7	+3	+4	+4	+2		
6	+1	+1	+8	+5	+2		
7	+2	+3	+3	+3	+4		
8	+1	+7	+4	+3	+2		
9	+8	+3	+4	+3	+1		
10	+3	+2	+3	+3	+5		
11	+2	+1	+5	+2	+4		
12	+7	+8	+3	+4	+2		
13	+2	+2	+2	+2	+3		
14	+2	+3	+7	+5	+1		
15	+1	+5	+8	+2	+3		
16	+5	+3	+4	+3	+2		
17	+2	+6	+4	+4	+3		
18	+7	+3	+3	+5	+1		
19	+1	+3	+7	+6	+1		
20	+1	+5	+5	+3	+3		
21	+5	+3	+4	+5	+2		
22	+1	+2	+6	+5	+1		
23	+2	+2	+3	+3	+2		
24	+1	+2	+6	+8	+1		
25	+1	+6	+4	+4	+4		
26	+5	+5	+5	+4	+2		
27	+2	+2	+3	+2	+2		
28	+2	+1	+5	+7	+1		
29	+2	+7	+5	+3	+2		
30	+1	+2	+8	+7	+1		
31	+5	+5	+3	+5	+1		
32	+2	+2	+7	+5	+2		
33	+1	+3	+2	+3	+5		
34	+1	+5	+5	+4	+3		
35	+1	+8	+4	+3	+2		
36	+2	+1	+2	+4	+3		
37	+1	+3	+7	+7	+2		
38	+1	+3	+4	+4	+4		
39	+5	+5	+4	+3	+3		
40	+2	+1	+3	+3	+2		
41	+2	+5	+6	+3	+2		
42	+5	+3	+5	+4	+3		
43	+3	+2	+3	+3	+5		
44	+1	+2	+8	+9	+1		

In a survey carried out recently by a leading financial magazine, an Equitable Life with-profits personal pension was found to be significantly more profitable than most. For example, had you retired on 1 April 1989 aged 65, you would have been 48% better off with one of our 20 year with-profits regular contribution personal pensions compared with the worst performer."

But this is just one example of our success. More important is our track record of consistently excellent investment performance.

Since 1974 the authoritative financial journal *Planned Savings* has surveyed the performance of regular contribution with-profits personal pension plans over 10, 15 and 20 year terms. Out of 20 tables published *The Equitable Life* has been top in 14 and 2nd in a further 7.

What is responsible for this happy state of affairs?

The Equitable



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Average



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Worst Company



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Personal pension fund from 20 year with-profits policy, annual contribution of £500 as published by *Planned Savings* July 1989. Figures refer to a self-employed man aged 65 retiring 1 April 1989. Source: *Planned Savings* July 1989.

One reason is that we keep a tighter rein on costs than any of our rivals. Indeed, our ratio of expenses to premium income is the lowest of any life assurance company in Britain according to *Money Management* magazine (November 1989).

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Britain, currently managing funds of over five billion pounds.

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**Planned Savings* Survey of regular contribution, 20 year, with-profits personal pensions - July 1989.



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FAMILY MONEY

Nick Mathiason uncovers a dear way of paying for insurance

A burden on home cover

Homeowners could be paying too much for their buildings and contents insurance from building societies if their policy is debited monthly along with their mortgage.

Both the Halifax and the Bradford & Bingley have confirmed they charge interest on home and contents insurance at an approaching 32 per cent. This figure is reached by combining the current average mortgage rate of 15.4 per cent plus an Annual Percentage Rate (APR) of about 16.7 per cent.

So a homeowner would find himself paying interest at 15.4 per cent on his total monthly mortgage and household insurance outlay. He would also have the added burden of paying an APR on his insurance.

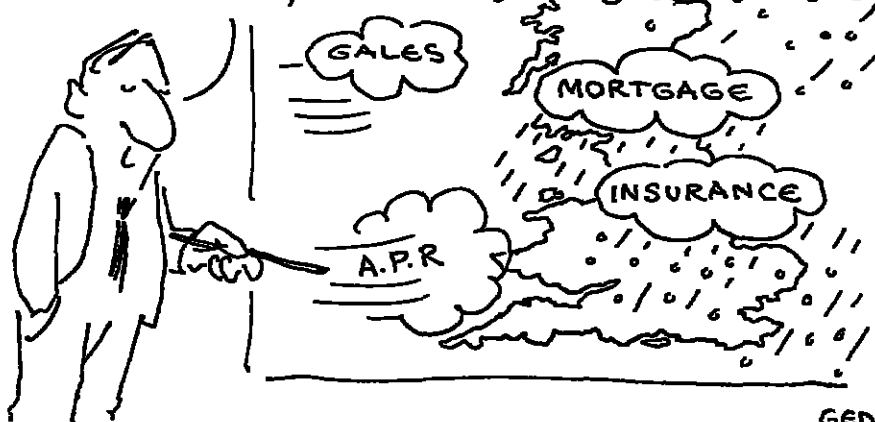
According to Mr John Brownhill, chairman of Brownhill, Morris and West, a London insurance broker, the result is that the public can face premiums of up to £1200 per year which are "double what they should be paying."

Mr Brownhill is concerned that there are thousands of people in this situation.

He said: "We see this sort of thing all the time and I think it's quite scandalous. It's fine if the public is aware of this but very often, they're not. These people are merely money lenders but they're selling policies which are grossly inflated."

He added: "It might seem easier to pay your insurance

... and even greater dangers, to the homeowner, on the way



GED.

together with your mortgage but with so many people in mortgage arrears, inflated policies are simply adding to the problem.

The British Insurance and Investment Broker's Association (BIIBA) has urged all consumers to tread warily when taking up buildings and contents insurance with building societies.

A spokesman explained: "Most building societies offer borrowers, a variety of alternative ways of spreading the cost of household insurance over the year."

"They also provide a further alternative which is to add the premium to the monthly mortgage payment," he added. "BIIBA strongly

recommends the public to avoid this option which is extremely expensive, especially in the current atmosphere of high interest rates."

"We paid out the premiums like a lamb," explained one disgruntled customer of the Bradford & Bingley.

"But when I saw how much the premiums were rising after every year, I became very concerned. We were paying about £1200. I realise it was partly our negligence for not looking into the matter but we were just unaware of the exact nature of the policy," he added.

But a spokesman for the Building Societies Association had little consolation for wor-

ried customers. "We have nothing to say on this matter. It's up to the individual building societies concerned."

The Bradford & Bingley was quick to deny this practice is causing unnecessary distress to a public already preoccupied with paying record mortgage bills.

"As far as we are concerned, charging interest on home insurance is a widespread practice among building societies," said Mr Tony James, Bradford & Bingley's home insurance marketing manager. "We are by no means alone on this. The choice is entirely the customer's as to how he pays off his insurance. After all, he does have the option of paying off in one lump sum."

Baring their souls — by post

With more than 1,300 unit trusts on the market, independent salesmen who are supposed to survey them all before recommending any should be eager for short cuts.

Or so Mr Alan Kelly, the managing director of Grant Thornton Personal Financial Planning, would seem to think.

He recently sent invitations to 18,000 financial advisers to subscribe £1,950 a year for his *Unittrusts* unit trust handbook, with recommendations for 100 selected funds.

Mr Kelly makes much of his close relationship with fund managers, asking in his promotional material: "Why do the fund managers agree to bare their souls to me? ... because we have invested so much money for clients that managers know we are big potential business procedures. 'I try to assess the manager's philosophy. I have to be confident that even if a unit trust has performed well in the past, it will continue to do so in the future."

"Anyone can look at statistics, but it

could be that those results were achieved by another fund manager altogether," he adds.

Of three fund managers named in the handbook approached at random, one recalled meeting Mr Kelly over a number of years and expressed respect for his thorough questioning.

The second recalled meeting him over lunch, but denied that he had been seen as a big business producer.

"Nobody is these days. 'We will see anybody for an hour or so, provided they are from a respectable house and if it's not too often,' he said.

The third manager, Mr David Felder of Kleinwort Benson Gilt Yield Trust, said that he had not met Mr Kelly: "Perhaps he has not got round to me yet," he suggested.

Mr Kelly said that he relies on questionnaires as well as personal interviews and had received a completed form from Kleinwort Benson.

His handbook comment on Mr Felder was: "A fund manager has considerable

back-up in the form of several fixed-interest managers and dealers. 'I don't think you could say any less of any fund manager in the City,' said Mr Felder.

Although Mr Kelly stresses that "it is simply not enough to rely on the funds' own publicity machines," he delivers a number of blandly glowing opinions, ranging from "manager clearly has exceptional ability" to "appears to have considerable ability" seems to be slightly lower down the scale.

But brokers who pay up for the Grant Thornton service will not be receiving the full story, according to Mr Kelly.

He explains that because of the confidential and sensitive nature of much of the information he acquires at meetings and discussions with fund managers, "it would often not be judicious to state everything in writing."

Still, he says that the information is reflected in his recommendations.

Barbara Ellis

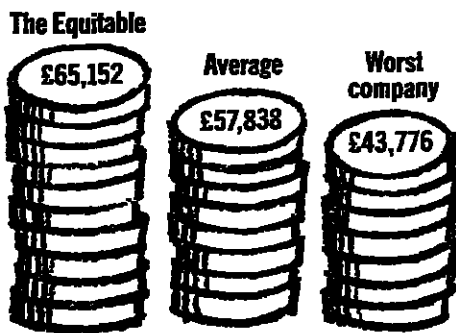
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THE EQUITABLE LIFE
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Source: *Planned Savings* July 1989

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Source: **Microcap* 1.180 to 1.190, offer to bid with net income reinvested. Over 5 years the Trust ranked No. 2 **£2,400 invested on 1st January each year from 1980 to 1989 with performance figures for the period 1.180 to 1.250 offer to bid, gives income reinvested. The same amount invested in each of the last 5 years would have returned £133,479.



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Source: **Money Management* April 1989 Managed Fund Sector Performance. ***Money Management* May 1989.

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You should however bear in mind that the value of your investment may go down as well as up.

As a unit trust only PEP the M&G PEP is limited to £2,400 a year and is not suitable for investors who wish to make use of the full £4,800 limit for a PEP investing directly in shares or a mixture of shares and unit trusts.

In order to make use of your 1989/90 PEP allowance your application must be received by the first post on Thursday April 5th. Applications received after then will be returned.

M&G RECOVERY

This unit trust follows a speculative policy; investing in the shares of companies which are going through a difficult period. The Managers are continually seeking new holdings to replace those where the prospects of recovery appear to have been fulfilled or where they seem to have been unfounded. Capital growth is the sole objective and yield considerations are ignored.

COMPARATIVE PERFORMANCE TABLE. Value of £1,000 invested at the launch of M&G Recovery Fund on 23rd May 1969, with gross income reinvested.

Year ended 31 DECEMBER	M&G RECOVERY	BUILDING SOCIETY
23 May '69	£1,000	£1,000
1970	£1,200	£1,138
1975	£2,896	£1,816
1980	£12,144	£3,192
1985	£33,848	£5,693
29 DEC '89	£93,384	£8,652*

NOTES All figures include reinvested gross income. The Building Society figures are based on the average rate of a Building Society Share Account (source: Central Statistical Office - Financial Statistics). M&G Recovery figures are all realisation values. An investment of £1,000 in M&G Recovery Fund on 23rd May 1969 would have grown to £93,384 by 29th December 1989. Trustee: Barclays Bank Trust Co. Limited. *Estimated.

M&G DIVIDEND

Designed for investors whose primary requirement is an above average and increasing income. The Fund's objective is to provide a yield about 50% higher than that of the FT Actuaries All-Share Index. It invests in a wide selection of ordinary shares, mainly in the UK.

COMPARATIVE PERFORMANCE TABLE. Value of £1,000 invested at the launch of M&G Dividend Fund on 6th May 1964, with gross income reinvested.

Year ended 31 DECEMBER	M&G DIVIDEND	BUILDING SOCIETY
6 May '64	£1,000	£1,000
1965	£1,112	£1,106
1970	£1,606	£1,606
1975	£3,460	£2,562
1980	£7,806	£4,504
1985	£30,030	£8,031
29 DEC '89	£71,424	£12,206*

NOTES All figures include reinvested gross income. The Building Society figures are based on the average rate of a Building Society Share Account (source: Central Statistical Office - Financial Statistics). M&G Dividend figures are all realisation values. An investment of £1,000 in M&G Dividend Fund on 6th May 1964 would have grown to £71,424 by 29th December 1989. Trustee: Barclays Bank Trust Co. Limited. *Estimated.

M&G SECOND GENERAL

The Fund's objective is consistent long-term growth of both income and capital. It may invest in any section of British industry or commerce and may include a proportion of overseas holdings. It aims to produce a yield in line with that of the FT Actuaries All-Share Index.

COMPARATIVE PERFORMANCE TABLE. Value of £1,000 invested at the launch of M&G Second General Fund on 5th June 1956, with gross income reinvested.

Year ended 31 DECEMBER	M&G SECOND	BUILDING SOCIETY
5 June '56	£1,000	£1,000
1960	£2,102	£1,298
1965	£3,617	£1,742
1970	£5,865	£2,529
1975	£10,748	£4,036
1980	£28,516	£7,095
1985	£84,920	£12,652
29 DEC '89	£178,098	£19,228*

NOTES All figures include reinvested gross income. The Building Society figures are based on the average rate of a Building Society Share Account (source: Central Statistical Office - Financial Statistics). M&G Second General figures are all realisation values. An investment of £1,000 in M&G Second General on 5th June 1956 would have grown to £178,098 by 29th December 1989. Trustee: Lloyds Bank PLC. *Estimated.

M&G EXTRA YIELD

Designed for investors whose primary requirement is an above average and increasing income. The Fund's objective is to provide a yield about 60% higher than that of the FT Actuaries All-Share Index. It invests principally in the ordinary shares of UK companies.

COMPARATIVE PERFORMANCE TABLE. Value of £1,000 invested at the launch of M&G Extra Yield Fund on 19th November 1973, with gross income reinvested.

Year ended 31 DECEMBER	M&G EXTRA YIELD	BUILDING SOCIETY
19 Nov '73	£1,000	£1,000
1975	£1,360	£1,250
1980	£2,954	£2,198
1985	£10,032	£3,919
29 DEC '89	£25,276	£5,956*

NOTES All figures include reinvested gross income. The Building Society figures are based on the average rate of a Building Society Share Account (source: Central Statistical Office - Financial Statistics). M&G Extra Yield figures are all realisation values. An investment of £1,000 in M&G Extra Yield Fund on 19th November 1973 would have grown to £25,276 by 29th December 1989. Trustee: Barclays Bank Trust Co. Limited. *Estimated.

M&G SMALLER COMPANIES

Designed to provide an investment in smaller companies, where good management can have most impact on earnings. The market in shares of smaller companies can be narrow and the share prices volatile, but investment in such shares can offer prospects of above average capital growth. A proportion of the Fund may be invested in the U.S.M. and unquoted securities. Yield is not a major factor and can be expected to be less than that provided by the FT Actuaries All-Share Index.

COMPARATIVE PERFORMANCE TABLE. Value of £1,000 invested at the launch of M&G Smaller Companies Fund on 27th September 1967, with gross income reinvested.

Year ended 31 DECEMBER	M&G SMALLER COMPANIES	BUILDING SOCIETY
27 Sept '67	£1,000	£1,000
1970	£1,402	£1,289
1975	£2,094	£2,056
1980	£7,818	£3,614
1985	£19,860	£6,445
29 DEC '89	£45,824	£9,795*

NOTES All figures include reinvested gross income. The Building Society figures are based on the average rate of a Building Society Share Account (source: Central Statistical Office - Financial Statistics). M&G Smaller Companies figures are all realisation values. An investment of £1,000 in M&G Smaller Companies Fund on 27th September 1967 would have grown to £45,824 by 29th December 1989. Trustee: Barclays Bank Trust Co. Limited. *Estimated.

M&G MIDLAND & GENERAL

Invests in industrial and commercial companies, with particular emphasis on smaller companies operating in the Midlands and other regional centres. The Fund's objective is to produce steady growth of both income and capital, with a yield about 25% higher than the FT Actuaries All-Share Index.

COMPARATIVE PERFORMANCE TABLE. Value of £1,000 invested at the launch of M&G Midland & General Fund on 19th June 1956, with gross income reinvested.

Year ended 31 DECEMBER	M&G MIDLAND	BUILDING SOCIETY
19 June '56	£1,000	£1,000
1960	£2,244	£1,292
1965	£3,645	£1,734
1970	£5,308	£2,518
1975	£9,855	£4,018
1980	£22,221	£7,063
1985	£91,442	£12,595
29 DEC '89	£246,930	£19,141*

NOTES All figures include reinvested gross income. The Building Society figures are based on the average rate of a Building Society Share Account (source: Central Statistical Office - Financial Statistics). M&G Midland figures are all realisation values. An investment of £1,000 in M&G Midland on 19th June 1956 would have grown to £246,930 by 29th December 1989. Trustee: Barclays Bank Trust Co. Limited. *Estimated.

PRICES AND YIELDS

On 29th December 1989 the offered prices and estimated gross current yields were

	Acc. Units	Yield	Spread	Max Spread
Recovery	959.9p	4.33%	5.44%	7.50%
Dividend	2265.5p	5.24%	5.44%	7.06%
Second	2369.7p	3.91%	5.66%	7.68%
Extra Yield	951.2p	5.35%	5.44%	7.05%
Smaller Companies	1971.5p	3.47%	5.44%	8.97%
Midland	2958.8p	4.73%	5.44%	8.04%

*Accumulation units were sub divided 20:1 on 12th February 1990.

HOW THE PLAN WORKS

LUMP SUM ONLY You can invest from £1,200 to £2,400 by cheque in any one tax year.

The whole of each contribution is invested in Accumulation units of the M&G unit trust you choose at the applicable offer price. Certificates are not issued in respect of the M&G PEP.

The net income earned on your investment in the fund is automatically reinvested, increasing the value of your units. Income tax is reclaimed on your behalf by M&G once a year and used to buy further units for you.

Although you are always the beneficial owner of your units, they will be registered in the name of M&G Financial Services Limited, the registered PEP manager and a member of IMRO. Your rights as a planholder are defined by the Terms and Conditions of The M&G Unit Trust Personal Equity Plan set out later.

UNIT PRICES

The "offer" price (at which units are bought from the unit trust manager) and the "bid" price (at which units are sold to the unit trust manager) are calculated every day by M&G Securities Limited under rules laid down by statutory regulations.

The prices of M&G unit trusts are usually worked out every morning as at 9.15 a.m. Units will normally be allocated to your plan at the offer price calculated after the Plan Manager has received your contribution.

CHARGES

There are no extra charges for an M&G PEP. All costs are absorbed within the normal charges of the unit trusts. The management charges on M&G unit trusts are a maximum of 5 per cent initially and 1 per cent annually. The management charges may only be increased with the consent of unitholders.

The Managers' annual charge, Trustee's fees currently 0.05% (in the case of Second General 0.05% on the first £20 million and 0.04% thereafter) (plus VAT) and Registrars' fees currently 0.08% (plus VAT) based on the Fund's mid-market value are deducted from gross income pro-rata on the first day of each Stock Exchange Account. The Managers' annual charge is 1% except for Dividend and Extra Yield which is 3/4% (which may increase to 1% upon three months notice to unitholders).

STATEMENTS AND REPORTS

Twice each year we will send you a statement of

your account made up to 5 April and 5 October. This will show the transactions on your account during, and the number of units held and their value at the end of, each period.

We shall also send you regular Managers' reports on the unit trust in which you are building up your investment. These give a commentary on the progress of the trust, set out the full portfolio of shares, and give the accounts of the trust.

HOW CAN I WITHDRAW MY MONEY

When you wish to sell your holding, or part of it, you have only to write to M&G Financial Services Limited, Planned Savings Department, M&G House, Victoria Road, Chelmsford CM1 1FB. We will then send you a cheque for the full bid value of the units you are cashing in, normally within a few days. Only written instructions will be accepted.

In due course we shall have available a system of regular automatic payments into your bank account.

CHOOSING YOUR UNIT TRUST

Because of the investment regulations governing unit trust PEPs, the choice of M&G funds available for our PEP has been restricted to six funds investing predominantly in UK ordinary shares. These funds offer a choice between high-yielding income funds, lower yielding capital growth funds and funds aiming for a balance between income and growth. All six funds have impressive performance records.

Each fund is managed by M&G Securities Limited,

M&G House, Victoria Road, Chelmsford CM1 1FB, from whom full scheme particulars and the most recent annual and half-yearly reports are available on request. Prices and yields of the funds are published every day in the *Financial Times*. Prices are also quoted in the *Daily Telegraph*, *Times*, *Independent* and *Guardian*.

Investors should remember that past performance does not guarantee future growth.

You should also remember that the price of units and the income from them can go down as well as up; you may not get back the amount you invested.

You should bear in mind that the tax regime of PEPs could change in the future.

CHANGING YOUR INVESTMENT

When you start your PEP, the whole of your contribution will buy units in the fund you choose. In the second and in each subsequent year you can choose a different fund from the list of those eligible, thus building up a portfolio of funds. In due course you will also be able to switch between funds.

HOW TO START A PLAN

Please read the notes and complete and return the application form together with your cheque. We will write to acknowledge receipt of your application, setting out the number of units acquired and their price, and enclosing the most recent half-yearly report of the fund you have chosen.

THE M&G UNIT TRUST PERSONAL EQUITY PLAN

TERMS AND CONDITIONS

1 DEFINITIONS

- (1) "Business Day" means a day on which the Managers of an M&G Unit Trust make a price for the purchase and sale of Units.
- "Conditions" means these Terms and Conditions together with the application form as from time to time amended in accordance with the provisions hereof.
- "Crown Employee" means a person holding an office or employment under the Crown which is of a public nature and the emoluments of which are payable out of the public revenue of the United Kingdom or of Northern Ireland.
- "IMRO" means the Investment Management Regulatory Organisation Limited.
- "M&G Company" means M&G Financial Services Limited and any other company which is a subsidiary or holding company of it or which is a subsidiary of any such holding company for which purpose the expressions "subsidiary" and "holding company" have the same meanings as in section 736 of the Companies Act 1985.
- "Nominee" means any person designated by the Plan Manager under Condition 9 and who may be an Associate of the Plan Manager.
- "Ordinary Shares" means ordinary shares, not being shares in an investment trust, issued by a company which is incorporated in the United Kingdom and quoted on the official list of a recognised Stock Exchange in the United Kingdom or dealt in on the Unlisted Securities Market.
- "PEP Unit Trust" before 5th April 1990 means a Unit Trust and on and after 5th April 1990 means a Unit Trust in respect of which at least 75% in value of the investments (for the purposes of the Treasury Regulations) subject to the trusts thereof are investments which can be counted towards satisfaction of any statutory test for determining whether units in the Unit Trust will be qualifying investments for the purposes of the Treasury Regulations and for this purpose:
- (a) it shall be assumed that the Units are held in a Personal Equity Plan into which the Planholder has contributed one half of the subscription limit under the Treasury Regulations; and
- (b) investments which are units in a Unit Trust or shares in an investment trust (as defined in the Treasury Regulations) shall be counted to the extent that the investments held in the Unit Trust or investment trust could be so counted if held directly by the Unit Trust.
- "Plan" means a Personal Equity Plan effected under these Conditions by a Qualifying Individual.
- "Planholder" means an individual who has opened a Plan under these Conditions.
- "Plan Manager" means M&G Financial Services Limited.
- "Qualifying Individual" means an individual, aged 18 years or over, who has not (subject to the exception provided by the 1989 Treasury Regulations as regards rights issues) subscribed to any other Personal Equity Plan for the year or any of the years for or in respect of which he makes an application to open a Plan under these Conditions, and who is either resident and ordinarily resident in the United Kingdom or, although non-resident in the United Kingdom, performs duties as a Crown Employee which are treated as being performed in the United Kingdom.
- "1989 Treasury Regulations" means the regulations for Personal Equity Plans made on 14th March 1989 and any other regulations made from time to time by HM Treasury under the provisions of s. 333 and Schedule 29 to the Income and Corporation Taxes Act 1988 and s. 149 D of the Capital Gains Tax Act 1979.
- "Units" means Units in a Unit Trust held in a Plan and any fractions or decimals thereof (to the nearest one hundredth of a Unit above).
- "Unit Trust" means a unit trust scheme which is an authorised securities scheme as defined in the Authorised Unit Trust Scheme (Investment and Borrowing Powers) Regulations 1988 the manager of which is an M&G company in the case of which an order under Section 78 of the Financial Services Act 1986 is in force.
- "Year" means a year beginning on 6th April in any year and ending with 5th April in the following year.
- (2) References to any statutory provision or to regulations made thereunder include any modification or re-enactment thereof.
- (3) References to gender shall be taken to refer to either gender.
- (4) Headings are included for the purpose of guidance and are not part of these Conditions.
- (5) The application form shall be treated as part of these Conditions and in case of conflict shall have precedence.

2 INTRODUCTION

- (1) The Plan Manager is a member of IMRO and as such is regulated by IMRO in the conduct of its investment business.
- (2) The Plan Manager agrees to act as such in relation to all Plans covered by the application form.
- (3) The Plan Manager will from time to time make Units (whether Income Units or Accumulation Units) in Unit Trusts available for the purposes of Plans effected under these Conditions.
- (4) Subject to these Conditions the investment objective of the Planholder shall be taken to be to invest in the M&G Unit Trust indicated by the Planholder in his application form.

3 APPLICATIONS TO OPEN A PLAN

- (1) This Condition applies to applications to open a Plan made under the 1989 Treasury Regulations. In order to open a Plan, an individual must be a Qualifying Individual and must submit to the Plan Manager a duly completed application form and must sign the declaration set out in the form. The Applicant must also submit a cheque for an amount not in excess of the maximum permitted by law for that particular Year.

- (2) The Plan comes into force when the Planholder's application for the Plan has been accepted by the Plan Manager.
- (3) For this purpose the application will be treated as having been accepted (a) if the Plan Manager does not postpone acceptance of the application under any regulatory provision, (i) on receipt by the Plan Manager of a duly completed application form together with a cheque in respect of the cash subscription if they are received first post OR (ii) on the day following receipt by the Plan Manager of a duly completed application form together with a cheque in respect of the cash subscription if they are received second post, and (b) if the Plan Manager sends a notice to the applicant that he intends to accept the application not earlier than any specified day following posting of the notice, on that specified day.
- (4) Unless the Applicant indicates otherwise in his application form, the form will be taken to authorise contributions to be made to the Plan for each Year beginning in the Year in which the application is made unless and until either the Planholder or the Plan Manager notifies the other in writing to the contrary. The Plan will be governed by these Conditions, as varied in accordance with Condition 14 below.

4 CONTRIBUTIONS

- (1) Except as permitted by law a Planholder may contribute to only one Personal Equity Plan each Year.
- (2) A total of not more than the maximum permitted by law for a particular Year can be contributed to a Plan during that Year.
- (3) Contributions must be of an amount of the Planholder's cash paid directly to the Plan Manager.
- (4) If at any time a Planholder ceases to be a Qualifying Individual he shall not thereafter make any contributions to a Plan.

5 CHOICE OF UNIT TRUST

- (1) Subject to this Condition, the Planholder's contributions will be applied by the Plan Manager in the purchase of Units of the Unit Trust which the Planholder has selected in his application form.
- (2) With effect from a date to be determined by the Plan Manager and notified to Planholders, the Planholder may by written notice to the Plan Manager (of a length to be determined by the Plan Manager in its notice) direct that future contributions to the Plan shall be applied by the Plan Manager in the purchase of Units other than the Units specified in the application form.
- (3) From a date to be determined by the Plan Manager and notified to Planholders the Planholder may by written notice to the Plan Manager (of a length to be determined by the Plan Manager in its notice) direct that Units in the Plan should be sold and the proceeds of sale applied in the purchase of other Units.
- (4) This Condition does not apply to the application of any contribution if, at the time the purchase is to be made, the Unit Trust is not a PEP Unit Trust. In these circumstances Units in the M&G Dividend Fund or the M&G Midland & General Fund will be purchased as described in Condition 6 below.

6 INVESTMENT

- (1) The following, namely:
- (a) contributions received from Planholders;
- (b) tax repayments received in respect of the Units;
- (c) the proceeds of sale of any Units;
- (d) any income and distributions from Units and cash deposits held in the Plan;
- (e) any sums received on the termination (otherwise than by way of reconstruction or amalgamation) of a Unit Trust
- will be credited to a sterling client account maintained by the Plan Manager with any authorised institution within the meaning of the Banking Act 1987 and will be applied by the Plan Manager:
- (i) within ten days of being received and
- (ii) at all times in accordance with the 1989 Treasury Regulations but (a) not unless Condition 6 (2) and (3) permit the purchase of Units or further Units in a PEP Unit Trust.
- (2) The Plan Manager will apply all such amounts in the purchase of Units selected by the Planholder in accordance with Condition 5 above, so long as the Unit Trust in which the investment is to be made continues to be a PEP Unit Trust. If at any time the Unit Trust ceases to be a PEP Unit Trust, the Plan Manager will apply all such amounts in the purchase of Accumulation Units in the M&G Dividend Fund provided that it is a PEP Unit Trust at the time when the purchase is to be made, but if it is not then a PEP Unit Trust, in the purchase of Accumulation Units in the M&G Midland & General Fund provided that it is then a PEP Unit Trust. If at any time a Plan includes Units in a Unit Trust which is not a PEP Unit Trust, the Units will be sold and the proceeds dealt with in accordance with Condition 6 (1) and (2) above.
- (4) All purchases and sales of Units will be made by the Plan Manager at the applicable offer price or bid price of the particular Unit Trust.

7 TAX REPAYMENTS

- The Plan Manager will make all necessary claims for repayment of tax relating to the Units in accordance with the Treasury Regulations.

8 BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP

- (1) The Planholder will at all times be the beneficial owner of the Units and of any rights and cash sums from time to time held in the Plan.
- (2) Without prejudice to the generality of (1) above, the Planholder will not dispose of or transfer any interest in such Units or any such cash sums, and will not create (or have outstanding) any charge or security on or over any such Units or any such cash sums.

9 REGISTRATION OF UNITS

- (1) Units will be registered in the name of the Plan Manager or, if the Plan Manager so designates, in the name of a Nominee.
- (2) The Planholder hereby authorises the Plan Manager to issue all such directions and instructions to any Nominee as the Plan Manager considers appropriate for the discharge of the Plan Manager's responsibilities under these Conditions and accepts that the Plan Manager will not be responsible for the defaults of the Nominee.
- (3) All documents of or evidencing title in respect of the Units and any cash will be held by or to the order of the Plan Manager.
- (4) Units may not be lent to any third party and no borrowing may be made against the security of Units.

10 PLANHOLDER'S RIGHTS

- The Plan Manager will arrange for the Planholder to be sent the annual accounts of the Unit Trust or each Unit Trust, Units in which are held in the Plan, together with the reports issued by the Managers of each Unit Trust.

11 VOTING RIGHTS ATTACHING TO UNITS AND ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

- (1) The Planholder may by an appropriate indication in the space provided in the application form elect:
- (a) to attend meetings of Unitholders of the Unit Trust, Units in which are held in the Plan, and
- (b) to exercise voting rights attaching to such Units, and
- (c) to receive any information issued to Unitholders in addition to the documents referred to in Condition 10 above
- until the election is withdrawn by written notice given by the Planholder to the Plan Manager.
- (2) Notwithstanding (1) above, the Planholder may on giving one month's prior written notice to the Plan Manager elect to exercise the rights and receive the additional information referred to therein until the election is withdrawn by written notice given by the Planholder to the Plan Manager.

12 STATEMENTS

- (1) The Period of Account for the purposes of this Condition will be the six months ending on 5th October and 5th April in every Year, and for each such period in which he is required to do so by the rules of IMRO the Plan Manager will send to the Planholder a Plan Statement prepared by reference to the last day in that period. The first Period of Account shall commence when the first contribution is made and will end on the commencement of the next complete Period of Account.
- (2) The Plan Statement will include all the information which the Plan Manager is required to give by the 1989 Treasury Regulations and the rules of IMRO.
- (3) In relation to the purchase or disposal of Units the Plan Statement will include all the information which the Plan Manager would have had to include in contract notes under the IMRO Rules had contract notes been sent to the Planholder under the IMRO Rules.
- (4) The Plan Manager will, if the Planholder requests it to do so give sight of, and supply to the Planholder copies of, all entries in its books relating to the Plan.

13 INFORMATION FOR PLAN MANAGER

- (1) The Planholder will supply the Plan Manager with all information which the Plan Manager reasonably requests for the purposes of the Plan, and in particular will promptly inform the Plan Manager of any change in his home address.
- (2) The Planholder will immediately inform the Plan Manager in writing if he ceases to be resident and ordinarily resident in the United Kingdom, or if, whilst non-resident, he ceases to perform duties as a Crown Employee.

14 VARIATIONS AND AMENDMENTS

- The Plan Manager may at any time and from time to time by written notice to the Planholder make such changes in and to these Conditions as it shall determine provided that no such change shall be made which results in the Plan ceasing to qualify under the 1989 Treasury Regulations, and any such changes will be notified to Planholders in such manner as the Plan Manager considers appropriate.

15 GOVERNING LAW

- These Conditions and the relationship between the Plan Manager and the Planholder shall be governed by English law.

16 INDEMNITY

- The Planholder hereby agrees for himself and his personal representatives to indemnify the Plan Manager and the Nominee and at all times to keep the Plan Manager and the Nominee indemnified in respect of all liabilities taxes costs charges and expenses incurred by the Plan Manager and the Nominee (except where caused by their own negligence) in connection with the establishment administration and termination of the Plan and any investment or deposit made thereunder.

17 TERMINATION, WITHDRAWALS AND OTHER MATTERS

- (1) Subject to this Condition, the Plan Manager may at any time and at its discretion make a written request to the Planholder to select Units in another Unit Trust for the purposes of his Plan and for the purposes of Condition 5 above the Planholder shall be assumed to have selected such Units in his application form. If within seven days of having made such a request or such longer period as the request shall specify and if the request shall propose termination under this Condition, the Plan Manager has not received a written selection of other Units from the Planholder, the Plan will terminate automatically.
- (2) A Plan may be terminated with immediate effect by the Plan Manager giving written notice of termination to the Planholder if it becomes impossible to comply with the 1989 Treasury Regulations, and the Plan will terminate automatically with immediate effect if it becomes void under the 1989 Treasury Regulations.
- (3) A Planholder may at any time by written request to the Plan Manager and

without prejudice to (2) above direct the Plan Manager:

- (a) to pay or transfer to him all or any of the Units comprised in the Plan (or the proceeds of sale thereof) and the whole or part of any cash balance and any other rights held in the Plan or
- (b) within such time as shall be agreed between the Planholder and the Plan Manager to transfer the Plan to another plan manager who fulfils the conditions in the 1989 Treasury Regulations, is approved by the Board of Inland Revenue to act as a plan manager, and agrees to accept the transfer.
- (4) Subject to (3) above, termination shall take place immediately but without prejudice to the completion of transactions already initiated.
- (5) The Plan Manager will give reasonable written notice to the Planholder of his intention to cease to act as a Plan Manager stating when he will cease to act so that the Planholder can give a direction under (3) above. If after the Plan Manager gives the Planholder notice under this Condition the Planholder fails to give the Plan Manager a direction under Condition 17(3) above before the Plan Manager ceases to act as such, the Plan will also terminate.
- (6) Where the Plan terminates pursuant to (2) above or any such direction is given as is mentioned in (3) above and, unless the Planholder specifies otherwise and within such time as the Plan Manager specifies, the Plan Manager will sell or realise the Units (or in a case to which (3)(a) of this Condition applies the Units in respect of which the direction has been given) and will pay or transfer the proceeds of sale and any cash balance and any other rights, as appropriate, to the Planholder or to the new plan manager.
- (7) Notwithstanding (2) and (3) above, the Plan Manager may deduct from the amount of any such payment or transfer:
- (a) any sums due to the Plan Manager pursuant to these Conditions and
- (b) except where the Plan is being transferred to another plan manager a sum determined by the Plan Manager to represent the tax liabilities of the Planholder or those of his personal representatives in connection with the Plan for which the Plan Manager is or may be accountable under the 1989 Treasury Regulations.
- (8) Notwithstanding that a Plan has been terminated in whole or in part or that a direction has been given to transfer the Plan to another plan manager, these Conditions shall apply until all outstanding transactions and liabilities have been performed and discharged.

18 DEATH

- (1) The Plan shall terminate automatically on the Planholder's death.
- (2) Notwithstanding (1) above and subject to (3) below, the authority of the Plan Manager and the Nominee (if any) will not be affected by the death of the Planholder and accordingly these Conditions shall be binding on the Planholder's personal representatives.
- (3) Subject to such formalities as the Plan Manager may specify, it shall pay or transfer the Units and any cash balance to or to the order of the Planholder's personal representatives.
- (4) Condition 17(6) and (7) shall apply to any payment made under (3) above.

19 FEES

- (1) The Manager (which is an associate of the Plan Manager for the purposes of the IMRO Rules) of Unit Trusts in which the Plan invests contributions, will receive the initial charge included in the offer price of Units acquired for the Plan, and the annual management charges of Unit Trusts, Units in which are held in the Plan and any other expenses and charges which are permitted to be paid to the Manager of the Unit Trust out of the property of the Unit Trust.
- (2) The Manager of the Unit Trust referred to in (1) above will at the appropriate times pay the Plan Manager sums equivalent to the initial charge and the annual management fee attributable to the Units.
- (3) The Plan Manager will out of such sums make any payments to M&G Investment Management Limited (which is an associate of the Plan Manager for the purposes of the IMRO Rules) in respect of investment management relating to Units held in the Plan which would otherwise have been paid by the Manager of the Unit Trusts.
- (4) Subject as provided in (1) and (2) above, the Plan Manager will not make or receive any charges in connection with the opening, administration or termination of the Plan.

20 TREASURY REGULATIONS

- The Plan Manager will notify the Planholder if by reason of any failure to satisfy the provisions of the 1989 Treasury Regulations the Plan has or will become void.

21 NOTICES OR REQUESTS

- Notices or requests made by the Planholder to the Plan Manager shall be in writing and will be acknowledged by the Plan Manager in writing or by telephone.

22 COMPLAINTS

- The Plan Manager operates a written complaints procedure in accordance with the IMRO Rules. The Planholder may address a complaint to the Plan Manager or to IMRO.

23 COMPENSATION

- In the event that the Plan Manager is not able to meet its financial liabilities to the Planholder, the Planholder will be entitled to compensation under the Investors' Compensation Scheme established under the Financial Services Act 1986.

24 THE FINANCIAL SERVICES ACT

- The Financial Services (Cancellation) Rules 1989 do not apply to these transactions.

NOTES TO HELP YOU IN COMPLETING THE M&G UNIT TRUST PEP APPLICATION FORM

- Note 1** Please give your daytime telephone number so that if a query arises in relation to your form we can contact you at once and speed up the processing of your application. No salesmen will call.
- Note 2** National Insurance Number (NINO). If you are a married woman you should supply your own NINO and if you know them, your own tax district and reference number. You should NOT supply those of your husband. An applicant who cannot supply a NINO may obtain one from the DSS using either form CFB if a NINO is required for the first time or form CF88 if the NINO issued has been lost or cannot be remembered. These forms can only be obtained from DSS offices. A National Pension Number, where applicable, is an acceptable alternative if you are unable to provide a NINO. A National Health Number is NOT acceptable.
- Note 3** The application form is designed to allow you to contribute to your M&G PEP tax year after tax year without having to complete a new application form. In the case of a form such as this which allows for contributions to be made year after year it is necessary to include these continuing declarations. You can stop contributing to your M&G PEP at any time. If you delete the wording in the form where indicated then your M&G PEP will not automatically continue in the subsequent tax year and these declarations will only apply to the period ending 5th April 1990. If you subsequently wish to contribute to your M&G PEP in future tax years, you will need to complete a new application form.
- Note 4** Your M&G PEP is invested in Accumulation units. Certificates are not issued in respect of the M&G PEP. Details of your investment will be shown in the acknowledgement which will be sent to you once your application has been accepted. It is therefore important that you retain the acknowledgement for your records. Please also retain the Terms and Conditions set out above. **Correctly completed application forms and cheques must be received at our Chelmsford Office by first post on 5th April 1990 to qualify for the 1989/90 tax year. Applications received on this form after that time will be returned.**

LITERATURE

To: The M&G Group, M&G House, Victoria Road, Chelmsford CM1 1FB. Tel: (0245) 266266. (Business Hours).

Please send me a free copy of the M&G Year Book.

Mr/Mrs/Miss	INITIALS	SURNAME
ADDRESS		
POSTCODE		ECGJ

ACT BEFORE 5TH APRIL

To: M&G Financial Services Limited, Planned Savings Department, M&G House, Victoria Road, Chelmsford CM1 1FB. Reg. Office: Registered in England No. 923891

REGISTRATION DETAILS BLOCK CAPITALS PLEASE

Mr/Mrs/Miss	Full Forenames
Surname	
Permanent Address	
Postcode	
Daytime Telephone No:	(See Note 1)

IMPORTANT: Your application cannot be accepted without your National Insurance Number or National Pension Number (See Note 2).

National Insurance No.	
National Pension No.	
Tax District (if known)	
Reference No. (if known)	

I wish to open an M&G Unit Trust Personal Equity Plan for the tax year ending 5 April 1990.

I wish the Plan to continue for each subsequent tax year (delete this clause if your Plan is only for the year indicated above - see Note 3).

Fund selected: (Circle one only of the following six funds)

DIVIDEND	EXTRA YIELD	RECOVERY
SMALLER COMPANIES	MIDLAND & GENERAL	SECOND GENERAL

No application can be accepted unless a fund is selected.

I understand that the maximum contribution is £2,400 in any tax year (5 April to 5 April).

I wish to contribute by cheque made payable to M&G Financial Services Limited, minimum £1,200, maximum £2,400

If you wish to attend and vote at Unitholder meetings and to receive additional information issued to Unitholders please tick this box.

I agree that the Personal Equity Plan opened by the Plan Manager pursuant to this Application, will be governed by the Terms and Conditions applicable to M&G Unit Trust Personal Equity Plans. I understand that a copy of the Terms and Conditions is available to me, and I agree to be bound by them in all respects.

I declare that:

- (a) I am aged 18 years or over.
- (b) I am resident and ordinarily resident in the UK for tax purposes.
- (c) I have not applied to subscribe for and have not made payments to any other Personal Equity Plan in or for the current tax year nor for any subsequent tax year. (See Note 3).
- (d) I will not subscribe to any Personal Equity Plan for any tax year for which I subscribe or shall subscribe to this Plan. (See Note 3).

I agree to inform M&G Financial Services Limited promptly of any change in my circumstances which affects any of this information.

I hereby authorise M&G Financial Services Limited:

- (a) to hold my cash subscriptions and the Plan investments, distributions, interest, cash and other rights or proceeds received in respect of them in the Personal Equity Plan;
- (b) to make all appropriate claims for tax relief in respect of plan investments on my behalf;
- (c) on my written request to transfer or pay to me any Plan investments, interest, cash, distributions, rights or other proceeds in respect of such investments held in the Plan.

I hereby declare that to the best of my knowledge and belief, the above information is true and correct.

Signature	Date
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This application is designed for individuals investing on their own behalf and is not for use by intermediaries. Your attention is drawn to the fact that in entering into this contract with M&G you will not have any right to cancel the contract under the Financial Services (Cancellation) Rules 1989.

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THE M&G UNIT TRUST PERSONAL EQUITY PLAN

UNIT TRUSTS

A growing business with Budget hopes

Even less successful unit trusts perform better than building societies, Christine Stopp writes

Investors putting £1,000 into the middle-performing UK general unit trust in January 1973, then selling the units 15 years later in January 1988, would have got £6,302 back. A similar investment made in January 1985 and redeemed in January 1989 would have returned £21,042.

These two results represent something like the best and the worst figures in unit trust investment.

The earlier of the two terms started at a high before the deepest plunge of the 1970s crash and ended just after the 1987 crash.

The second started when the market was at the very bottom and ended after the damage of the 1987 crash had more than been repaired.

You may not be able to guarantee the return on a unit trust, but even the lower of the two UK general fund figures was still a significant improvement on the performance of a building society, which would have returned £2,954 and £3,543 over the two periods respectively.

Over the long term, even the income record for unit trusts compares favourably with that of a building society account.

Recent figures from the Unit Trust Association show that £1,000 invested in a building society in 1980 would have produced £114 income in the first year and £111 in the year to January 1990.

The average UK equity income trust would have paid distributions of £71 and £188 respectively in the same two years.

From 1983, the income from the unit trust was consistently greater than that from the society. In addition, the unit trust investment grew in capital value by almost 350 per cent.

The performance chart shows what the main geographical sectors have done during the 1980s, a period that produced a succession of dramatic returns, except in 1987 and 1988.

In the 1980s unit trusts also multiplied in number, from 459 at the start of 1980 to almost 1,400 now. The abolition of exchange controls at the end of 1979 made it much easier to invest overseas, and this produced a flood of trusts that invested in new markets.

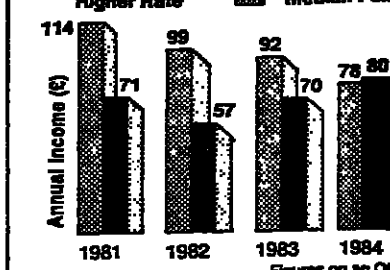
The result is that investors today have an enormous range from which to choose, though, perversely, many people see this as a disadvantage, rather than an advantage.

Unit trust managers have boldly gone where nobody would have dreamt of investing even five years ago.

That trusts are a recent high-risk addition to specialist funds. And this decade looks likely to offer further way-out possibilities. Latin American and East European funds are already available for the institutional investor, and it cannot be long before the public are offered a direct link to the action. This represents the yuppie end of unit trust

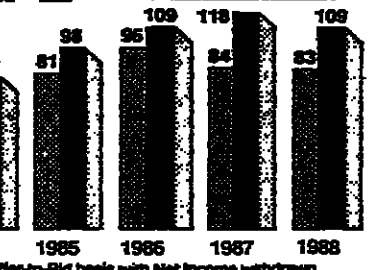
Growth in the 1980s: Unit Trusts and Building Societies

Yield per £1,000



Growth in Capital Value

Value in £1,000



Figures on an Offer-to-Bid basis with Net Income withdrawn

investment. For widows and orphans there will also be new opportunities.

Cash funds are already offering an attractive, tax-reclaimable investment for those rendered non-taxpayers by independent taxation. The Fidelity Cash Trust has recently been quoting yields of

about 15 per cent. It is likely to be imitated by many groups in coming months.

The long-awaited changes to the unit trust investment and borrowing powers regulations are expected soon. These will permit wider use of financial futures in unit trust funds. Futures have a reputa-

tion for being at the risky end of investment but, as Save & Prosper's technical director, Ken Emery, points out, in reality they "can be anywhere on the risk spectrum".

Guaranteed products could be one result. These will invest a large proportion of the fund in a secure home, such as gilts. The rest will be used to achieve speculative growth using futures contracts. Funds like this have already proved popular offshore.

Another low-risk innovation will be mixed funds, the unit trust alternative to insurance-managed funds. Investment through insurance policies is losing more and more of its attraction through the abolition of tax incentives.

A dream in the industry, which may not be pie in the sky — is that unit trusts will take over the role of insurance vehicles as long-term savings

plans. Unit trust pensions and mortgages are already with us, and unit trusts offer better performance and much more flexibility than insurance policies designed for investment.

Independent taxation itself may move investors more towards unit trusts. Mary Blair, Fidelity's product development director, thinks people are only now waking up to what the new tax rules will mean.

She also sees the new regulatory climate as promising for unit trusts, as greater disclosure of costs and charges should make their attraction clear. Emphasis on a good track record for best advice purposes should be translated into greater public awareness of performance, and management groups should, in turn, be more businesslike about achieving growth.

As far as investment areas are concerned, Fidelity thinks the Far East, including Japan, still offers the best long-term growth possibilities, though Europe comes a close second.

The caveat, Ms Blair says, is that in the case of Europe "there must be some adjustment to the euphoria we've had". A new-style Europe "cannot all be smoothed out without some hiccups".

There are a number of unit trust issues on which the industry hopes to see changes in the Budget.

A bigger unit trust PEP (personal equity plan) limit



Mary Blair: better climate

would be welcomed, Mr Emery says, as well as clarification of the tax rules on the use of financial futures.

There is also concern that the taxation of UK unit trusts will make UK bond funds uncompetitive for European investors in other Community states. If something is not done about this UK companies could migrate to Luxembourg, where they would be better placed to do business in Europe.

A change in the composite rate tax rules — perhaps allowing building societies to pay without any deduction — could restore the balance between unit trusts and the societies. Ms Blair simply hopes for a Budget to stimulate investment: "If there is a year in which to encourage savers, this must be it."



Ken Emery: tax clarification

PERFORMANCE IN THE 1980s (main sector averages, year-on-year averages)

UNIT TRUST SECTOR	1980	1981	1982	1983	1984	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989	10-year return (%) on £1,000
UK general	18.5	1.1	4.5	18.7	13.3	25.8	27.1	25.5	11.5	27.9	6,765
UK growth	10.7	1.0	7.4	24.4	13.4	21.3	28.4	25.6	9.8	28.7	5,610
UK equity	14.9	1.5	13.7	25.1	15.9	28.1	29.9	21.5	14.9	11.8	6,657
International growth	25.8	6.7	-14.8	24.3	5.2	11.3	37.4	22.5	16.0	35.6	5,130
North America	29.5	8.6	-25.9	4.9	2.2	6.0	30.8	37.7	12.0	36.1	4,080
Europe	43.8	13.5	-32.6	42.4	44.5	17.6	53.3	18.5	10.6	0.7	6,682
Japan	27.9	18.0	-2.1	58.9	0.6	23.9	-	-	-	-	12,339

1981-1985 results are offer to bid, the rest offer to bid. No separate Japan figures before 1985

Source is Unit Trust Year Book, except the final column, which was supplied by the Unit Trust Association

The spotlight is turned on Europe

Unit trust companies have never found it easy to sell to investors more at home with building society accounts than stocks and shares. So when the walls started coming down across Eastern Europe, the opportunity was too good to miss.

Save & Prosper inaugurated its European Smaller Markets unit trust in January. But although the trust was launched in Berlin, amid new year celebrations and talk of a reunified Germany, the trust

will stick to tried and tested markets for the time being.

Early investment will favour The Netherlands, Spain, France and West Germany — markets the managers describe as underdeveloped, under-researched and under-capitalized. Smaller Markets is free to invest in the East European economies, but has no plans to do so yet.

As an early indication, West Germany was likely to make up about a quarter of the portfolio, followed by France with 22 per cent and Spain

How the Eastern Bloc revolution brought the emphasis nearer home

with 19 per cent. The Netherlands would make up about 10 per cent, and smaller stakes were likely in Belgium, Switzerland, Norway, Portugal, Denmark and Italy.

Julian Tregoning, director of unit trusts and PEPs, says Europe is likely to take over from Japan and the Far East as the theme for the 1990s.

"Combine the European Community's single market approach with the recent dramatic events in Eastern Europe and the time must be right for investment in Europe," he says.

Chris Tracey, the investment director, says the vast majority of smaller European companies are under-researched.

"There are many companies out there which are well run, trading profitably and creating the right products for Europe," he says. "But 80 per cent of them remain totally unmonitored by European and UK investment houses and undervalued by the as yet inefficient European stock markets on which their shares are traded."

So far the message seems to have paid off. Savers invested £53 million with the trust during the launch period. Nearly 4,000 of the new investors were regular savers — something the unit trust industry is keen to encourage.

"Regular savers are important because no one can get their timing absolutely right," says Ken Emery, Save & Prosper's technical director. "Even if markets are a bit volatile, regular saving helps them to take the rough with the smooth. It's very encouraging to see so much."

Gartmore has launched a unit trust with Eastern Europe in mind. The Gartmore Euroventures Trust will invest in Western European companies looking for opportunities in the East.

These companies will aim to expand into or link with emerging European economies such as Poland, East Germany and Czechoslovakia. The fund is also free to invest directly on a selective basis.

Brian O'Neill, who is managing the fund, says there is a range of opportunities. "The democratization process in Eastern Europe has significant economic implications. Already some of the area's economies are moving away from state control to what we would regard as free-market, private-sector philosophies."

"A lot has been written about the need for these



Julian Tregoning (left): new theme.



Chris Tracey: good products

economies to acquire new external funding for capital investment programmes designed to overcome industrial and business inefficiencies, ranging from outdated factory plant to shortages of consumer goods. Much of the funding, capital investment and supply of equipment and know-how will flow from the economies of Western Europe."

West German telecommunications companies would be an obvious choice to back as only 16 per cent of East German homes have a telephone. Germany might

account for 35 per cent of a model portfolio, with investment in such companies as Volkswagen, Siemens and Metallgesellschaft. Austria and Italy could account for 20 per cent each, while UK companies such as APV and Telfos might make up 10 per cent. There is even scope for American giants such as General Electric.

Euroventures is on a special fixed-price offer of 25p per unit. There is a 1 per cent discount on applications until the offer closes on Wednesday. Jon Ashworth

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PEARL UNIT TRUSTS

Source Money Management Jan 1990

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Tax-free investment of up to £2,400 in overseas unit trusts is available through a Personal Equity Plan until 5th April, 1990 — and only until then.

After that date, the amount of a PEP which may be invested overseas will be considerably reduced.

Which PEP should you choose to maximise the potential of this once-for-all opportunity?

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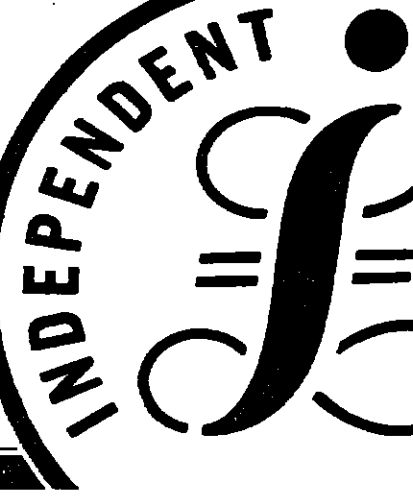
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UNIT TRUSTS/3

Three experts give
their advice for
investment in
the UK, Europe
and beyond

● Peter Hargreaves
Hargreaves Lansdown Asset
Management

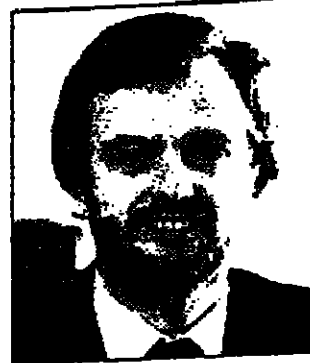
The United Kingdom: during the past 12 months it has been extremely difficult to convince clients that they should have an investment in the UK. Since UK investors' liabilities are in sterling, we believe their assets should be in sterling. We believe that this is an excellent time to invest in the UK. While interest rates do not look like coming down in the short term, we can also safely say there is very little chance of significant increases. We are within two years of a general election, and a mini boom is inevitable.

We like the new fund from Newton. We believe this group is determined to be a serious player in the unit trust market, and we recommend the New Newton General Trust.

Japan: now no longer



Optimism about markets: (left to right) Peter Hargreaves, Graham Hooper, Mark Dampier



speculative, more the stable low-risk element of a portfolio. For the UK investor there are two potential returns from Japan, the stock market and the currency. We recommend one of the best long-term performers in Japan from a group which intends to be a major international figure in investment management: the MIM Britannia Japan Performance Fund.

Europe: no portfolio today can ignore the potential of the west's most populous market. Europe has many advantages over the Far East and, with the changes in the east, European businesses will have access to a new source of highly educated highly motivated workers with low wage expectations. In addition, there is

the 1992 and the single European market; and, most importantly, Europe has far better communications than most other parts of the world. We recommend a unit trust which is poised to capitalize on the changes occurring in continental Europe: the Fidelity 1992 Fund.

These are not only three markets which I believe offer good investment potential for the future, but also groups which I believe will perform well within those markets.

These three funds would make an ideal balanced portfolio for someone entering the unit trust market for the first time. We have placed them in order of how much capital should be invested. In other words, if you were investing

£10,000, perhaps £4,500 in the UK fund £3,000 in the Japan fund and £2,500 in the European fund would be a sensible start to a portfolio of unit trusts.

● Graham Hooper
Chase de Vere Investments
The contrast between the lethargy in the UK and US economies and the naive euphoria and consequent confidence now prevalent in Europe is marked.

The strong performances of most world markets in 1989 will not be repeated this year as growth slows and inflation bites into corporate profits. Given that UK interest rates will fall later this year, for political if not economic reasons - investors reluctant to expose themselves to risk should select a fund with a strong fixed interest element. Investors with Royal Trust Preference Share Fund: those looking for higher risks and rewards should look at Fidelity Special Situations (but be prepared for a bumpy ride). Avoid funds investing heavily in retail stocks or highly geared companies.

In America, interest rates could fall faster than in the UK, and currency should be a major consideration. America has often been a graveyard for UK investors because of the currency - go for a heavily hedged fund such as the Gartmore Hedged American Trust.

The naive euphoria I referred to earlier revolves around the fact that although cash flow into Europe (and particularly Germany) is strong, growth will be funded by western money. My worry is that we could be building a third-world debt type problem on our own doorstep. Consequently, a broadly based trust such as Fidelity European is as good a bet as any. GT Germany looks a good "pump" - but beware of the risks.

In the Far East, Japan will continue to be the engine-room of world growth. The Japanese are heavy investors in other Far Eastern satellite countries. The "weight of money" view will keep these

markets moving. For Japan, consider Perpetual Japanese Growth Fund, and in the satellites invest in the James Capel Tiger Index Fund - a superbly conceived and constructed fund for these inherently volatile markets.

My cynicism is based on the view that slowing world growth will have more of an adverse effect than most commentators expect. The message is clear: be selective in your choice of management group and fund manager - consistency of past performance is usually indicative of a solid future and, given a medium-term view, investors will not be disappointed.

● Mark Dampier
Whitechurch Securities

Investors have had a roller-coaster ride in world stock markets since 1987, with some dramatic rises and falls. Markets have ebbed and flowed with the political power struggles in eastern Europe. I believe this will continue into the 1990s, and investors need, more than ever, to take a long-term approach.

Most stock markets have had a good run since October 1987. For sterling investors, this has often been enhanced, on overseas holdings, by the fall in the pound. Investors should therefore appreciate that gains are likely to be harder to achieve over the next year. The general background, however, remains encouraging: worries over inflation around the world are exaggerated, and the recent rises in bond yields should prove to be a buying opportunity. Institutional cash is also at very high levels, suggesting that risks are limited.

With so much going on, it is difficult for small investors to know where to place their money, so I have gone for an easy-way bet and chosen MIA Emerging Markets. Investing in emerging markets is rather like investing in small companies: they have a huge potential for booming, but can also fall flat on their face. MIA reduces the risk by spreading investment around the world, currently holding around 50 per cent in the Far East, over 20 per cent in Europe and 17 per cent in the more unusual areas such as Israel, Brazil and even Chile. The fund has risen by around 70 per cent in the last year (offer to offer). Investors can therefore participate in the changes taking place in Europe, benefit from the dynamic economies of the Far East, and invest in some of the markets of tomorrow.

It should be remembered that Japan itself was only an emerging market 25 years ago, and it now has a bigger capitalization than the United States - food for thought.

Invest in EUROPE'S FINEST COLLECTION

Six New Unit Trusts for the Growth Markets of the 1990s

The stock markets of Europe provide some of the most exciting capital growth opportunities available at the present time. International investors are only just beginning to appreciate the full consequences of Europe's move towards a single market in 1992. This, together with the dramatic changes sweeping Eastern Europe, should ensure that economic growth is sustained at recent high levels well into the new decade.

With trade barriers tumbling across Europe, companies will have access to wider markets, promoting higher sales, greater competitiveness and bigger profits. As companies look beyond national boundaries, the merits of larger size will continue to encourage the growing level of takeover and merger activity now taking place.

The new found political and economic freedom in Eastern Europe has opened up new markets hungry for goods and services from their wealthy neighbours. The modernisation of Eastern European economies will further

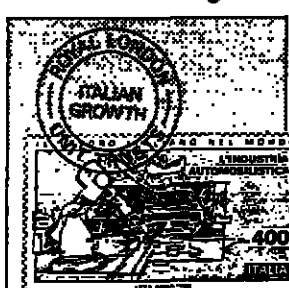
fuel the economic boom in Western Europe.

The benefits of these developments will not be evenly spread and a variety of opportunities will arise for investors who may, therefore, wish to invest in different markets at different times. Despite the advantages of being able to invest in individual European markets, no major unit trust group offers the choice between these mar-

kets that is now available from Royal London.

About Royal London

The Royal London Unit Trust Managers Limited is a wholly-owned subsidiary of The Royal London Mutual Insurance Society Limited. The Royal London Group currently manages funds of approximately £3 billion, over £70 million of which is already invested in Europe. Royal London was the only group to appear in the top ten unit trust management



The Royal London Italian Growth Trust

Italy has become a dynamic and successful market, already enjoying many close trading links with Eastern European countries. The country has great potential as many investors have been unaware of Italy's thriving underlying industrial base. The Italians themselves have a tremendous propensity to save and invest - second only to the Japanese - thus further boosting the economy. It is strong in agriculture, Italian olive oil is exported all over the world and Italy is the world's single biggest wine producer. It is also strong in cars, aircraft, shipping, heavy engineering, clothing and textiles. Italy is the birthplace of banking in which it remains a world force and the Milan Stock Exchange is important in international transactions.

Total market capitalisation, 31 December 1989: £21.5 billion. Percentage of total world stock market capitalisation: 1.7%.

Min. Investment
£1,000

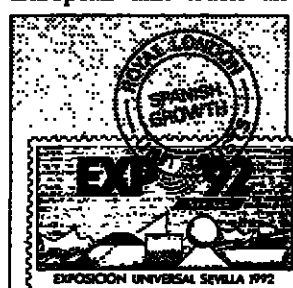
You may invest in any or all of the six new Royal London Trusts are eligible for a discount of 2% provided the application reaches us by 9th March 1990. So don't miss your chance, act now before it's too late.

groups for both UK and international unit trusts for last year.

(Source: Sunday Times, Microcap).

Six New Unit Trusts

With 1992 fast approaching, Royal London is now able to offer a unique range of six specialist European unit trusts all



The Royal London Spanish Growth Trust

The Spanish economy has performed strongly over the last two years and is now one of the fastest developing stock markets in Europe over this period. While the risks of investment in Spain over the next ten years are perhaps high, the potential for growth is among the highest of all the major markets. Economic and corporate growth should remain strong. Spain has important coal and iron resources, powerful agricultural exports - not least olives! - and a continuing commitment to create new industrial zones. The principal stock exchange in Madrid is supplemented by smaller but active exchanges in Barcelona, Bilbao and Valencia.

Total market capitalisation, 31 December 1989: £24.5 billion. Percentage of total world stock market capitalisation: 1.9%.

Valuable discounts - limited period

All investors in any or all of these six new Royal London Trusts are eligible for a discount of 2% provided the application reaches us by 9th March 1990. So don't miss your chance, act now before it's too late.

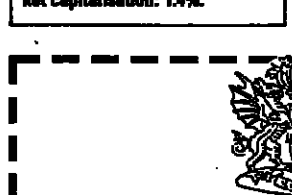
aimed at capital growth and each investing in one of the major European markets.



The Royal London Dutch Growth Trust

Although geographically small, the Netherlands, like the UK, has always been an adventurous country, seeking profitable trade links around the world. There is intensive agriculture, important coal and natural gas resources and the Netherlands control a great deal of total world output in oil, tin and diamonds. Several of the world's supergiant trading companies - Unilever, Shell and Philips - have roots in the Netherlands. Some of the best investment opportunities, however, lie amongst the undeveloped and often undiscovered smaller company stocks. Many of these are good quality, well-managed businesses which have excellent prospects and are also likely to be at the forefront of European corporate restructuring in the move towards a single European market.

Total market capitalisation, 31 December 1989: £26.1 billion. Percentage of total world stock market capitalisation: 1.4%.



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The Royal London German Growth Trust ☐ (Min £1,800)
The Royal London Italian Growth Trust ☐ (Min £1,000)
The Royal London Spanish Growth Trust ☐ (Min £1,000)
The Royal London Swiss Growth Trust ☐ (Min £1,000)

TOTAL ☐

A cheque made payable to The Royal London Unit Trust Managers Limited is enclosed.

SURNAME
FIRST NAMES
ADDRESS
POST CODE

I am/We are not less than 18 years of age (Joint applicants should all sign and give separate details) Offer not available to residents of the Republic of Ireland



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Time to PEP up the mortgage?

Unit trusts are often described as the best way for private investors to buy shares without putting all their eggs in one basket. Wrap them in a personal equity plan, the argument continues, and the rewards will be even greater. Over 20 years, the difference could run to thousands of pounds without necessarily adding anything to the cost.

It is a convincing argument, and one which has helped the unit trust companies attract new investors in recent months. The largest provider, M&G, has had £70 million invested in its unit trust PEP since June last year. Others, like Fidelity and Save & Prosper, have seen a growing interest in the plans, especially as the end of the tax year draws nearer.

The question for investors is whether it is better to pick a unit-trust-only PEP, or choose one which allows them to select individual shares as well. For first-time investors, the unit-trust option seems the better bet. The downside is that they can only invest up to £2,400 in a unit-trust-only PEP, as opposed to £4,800 through a share plan. But that in its tax-free wrapping, that can add up to a sizeable return over 10 or 15 years.

Unlike a pension, there is no tax relief on contributions to a PEP. But any gains are tax free, and there is no tax to pay on income. The benefits can be attractive, and don't necessarily cost any more.

"There is a bit of a misconception about the cost of a PEP," said Mr Robin Bloor, an associate director of Chase de Vere, the broker. "It costs no more, generally, to go into a PEP, and the yield is tax free." Roger Jennings, M&G's marketing manager, says unit trust PEPs remain one of the most effective ways of investing in the longer term. "At worst there is little extra cost in going via a PEP. We've got our fingers crossed that the Chancellor will do the right

thing and make the full PEP allowance available to unit trust investors."

Even a single lump sum investment can turn into a sizeable gain with time. Anyone who invested £1,000 in Save & Prosper's High Return unit trust 20 years ago would have seen it grow to £19,252 by the beginning of February, offer to bid. With the tax-free wrapping of a PEP to boost it, the same investment would have become £29,311.

The rewards for regular savers are even more spectacular. £100 invested in the same unit trust each month for 20 years would have grown to £176,240. Through the PEP, it would have turned into £235,385 - not bad considering it doesn't really cost any more to "PEP" up as investment.

Fidelity found that anyone who invested £4,800 in its Special Situations unit trust at the beginning of the 1980s could have made an extra £10,000 through a PEP. An investor paying 25 per cent tax and no capital gains tax would have been left with £57,500 tax-free at the beginning of January 1990, compared with £47,800 if he had invested outside a PEP.

It has also been predicted that unit-trust PEPs may come to replace pensions and endowments as an ideal way of paying off mortgages. The beauty, according to many advisers, is the way in which cash can be rolled up tax free year after year without locking you away from your capital.

But it is in saving for school fees that unit-trust PEPs are really set to make their mark. "This is an area which will become greatly more developed," said Mr Robin Bloor. "You can call a plan a school fees PEP, when really it is just a tag to encourage saving. PEPs only really become worthwhile over five to 10 years, and should be held for at least three."

Jon Ashworth

FOCUS

UNIT TRUSTS/4

European launches and money trusts are expanding, Barbara Ellis says

How 1992 came early

Continental Europe is a preoccupation for Britain's unit trusts — as somewhere to invest in, as a marketplace and as a source of competition on home ground. But investors may overlook the cross-border battle for their savings already in progress because much of it is disguised, either by familiar brand names or by slow beginnings.

From this year, fund launches have included a European smaller-companies fund from Save & Prosper focusing on eastern Europe. Royal London unveiled individual trusts specializing in France, West Germany, Italy, Spain and The Netherlands, but handed out small, boxed chunks of the Berlin wall to stress awareness of crumbling communism and its impact.

But the experience of investing on the Continent may have been soured for some time, at least for the 12,000 unit-holders recently locked into the French-owned Dumeil group's single-country funds for more than three months after the discovery of pricing difficulties. The West German banks that have bought stakes in Britain's unit trust industry should, however, avoid any rebound of bad publicity associated with foreign names.

The European single market arrived well ahead of 1992 for unit trusts. On October 1 last year, a European Community directive came into force allowing unit trusts to sell throughout Europe, provided they registered in each country as a UCITS (undertaking for

collective investment in transferable securities). To qualify, a unit trust has to abide by restrictions, including a "three-fives" rule — holding no more than 5 per cent of its portfolio in one stock and owning no more than 5 per cent of a company and no more than 5 per cent of another UCITS. If all EC countries had the necessary statutes on their books by October 1, the number of funds on the market in Britain might have doubled or trebled from the present 1,372. But in the event, only Britain, Ireland and Luxembourg had the laws in place, and, according to Tony Smith, secretary of the Unit Trust Association, investors can expect to see little change for another year or two. Difficulties in pricing systems stand in the way, he says, describing the UCITS directive as "just a foot in the door, not an open door."

According to Save & Prosper's Ken Emery, tax considerations have kept S & P and many others from registering their British-based funds as UCITS. Though registration allows

a fund to pay corporation tax at 25 per cent instead of 35 per cent, which benefits unit-holders, this is a disadvantage for the group, which sees its franked income converted into unfranked income.

S & P decided to retain unit trust status — with a neutral effect on investors, according to Mr Emery — and passed the information on.

"The Securities and Invest

Units in Luxembourg because of the softer regulatory regime, including S & P's Fleming Flagship fund, but, as things stand, Mr Emery says, investors are better off with their own domestic fund, again for tax reasons.

Foreign exchange risk is another deterrent, as well as the lack of cover from the UK Investors' Compensation Scheme for

Units based outside Britain. Unit trust marketing in Europe is largely dominated by banks, and the UTA's Mr Smith says that outside influences will be prevented from changing national characteristics by the UCITS provision that funds must abide by the marketing rules in each country.

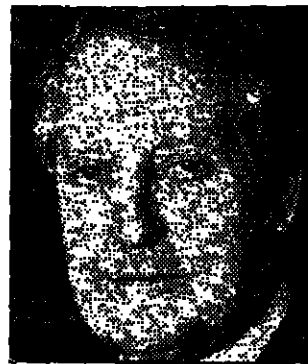
However, Mary Blair of Fidelity thinks this means that it will be easier for Continental trusts to sell their products in Britain than the other way round because this country has a large number of independent sales people, as well as relatively cheap national press advertising. But, she says, British expertise in equity investment should give the UK an edge against Continental funds, which have pri-



Chipping away at eastern Europe: Save & Prosper handed out small, boxed chunks of the Berlin wall

ments Board did not know what was going on", he says. "First, they got hundreds of requests for UCITS certificates, then hundreds of withdrawals."

Some funds have set up as



Tony Smith: sees little change

marily specialized in fixed-interest investment. Yet there are problems with making cross-border comparisons, according to Ms Blair. She explains, as an example, that a West German fund with exactly the same investments in, say, North America as an Italian fund could show quite a different performance and payout record because of gross payment of dividends in West Germany and net payment in Italy.

Ms Blair says that instead of registering its UK-based funds as UCITS, Fidelity aims to set up a mirror-image Luxembourg operation by the end of September. "We feel that most Europeans don't understand the bid/offer spread which we are obliged to have here," she says, explaining that Luxembourg funds have a single price based on net asset value.

At M&G, the biggest of Britain's unit trust groups, Tim Miller, marketing director, says that last October's UCITS directive was less important than it might appear because it had done nothing about harmonizing tax, marketing rules or distribution. "The world is a lot more complicated than we thought it was," says Mr Miller, who chairs a marketing committee for the European Federation of Investment Fund Companies. "You have these different industries that have grown up really in isolation."

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Parking-place problems

Money unit trusts are like a sparsely used car park that has suddenly sprouted a car boot sale. When first authorized two years ago, the money or cash trusts were seen by management groups as a kind of "parking place" in which customers could be persuaded to leave their money between forays into more adventurous share-based funds (Barbara Ellis writes).

Then along came the announcement of independent taxation, which from April will give married women their own tax allowance, as well as an incentive for the non-taxpayers among them to seek an alternative to the bank and building society deposits that deduct composite rates tax that cannot be reclaimed.

Money funds offered a convenient loophole: though they invest in bank and building society deposits as well as short-term money market instruments, the tax they deduct can be reclaimed by non-taxpayers. Managers seized on this as a selling point.

The number of money funds on the market grew from just two early last year to eight by this January. Three more

have been launched, and a further five or six are nearing the slipway — all with independent taxation seriously in mind.

Despite their common target, though, the money funds show quite wide variations in charges and conditions. Edinburgh's Stewart Ivory Managed Cash fund looks the most expensive, with a 5 per cent front-end charge, plus 0.5 per cent annually in exchange for a yield of 14.9 per cent. The minimum investment is either £5,000 or £50 a month as part of a savings plan.

Midland Bank's Money unit trust is also pricey, charging 4 per cent initially and 0.5 per cent annually, although the yield is only 12.7 per cent. Minimum investment is £500.

The Savings Corporation's City Reserve fund has a front-end charge of 1 per cent, plus 0.5 per cent a year. The same group's Harbour fund charges nothing initially and 0.5 per cent annually.

Both at present yield 14 per cent, with minimum investments set at either £500 in a lump sum or £25 a month through a savings plan.

The Guardian Royal Exchange Cash fund effectively

sets no minimum on investments. There is a lower limit of £500 on lump-sum investments, but not on the group's monthly savings plan, though a spokesman said the hope was that people would not invest less than £5 or £10 a month. GRE Cash has no initial charge, a 0.5 annual charge and a 13.7 per cent yield.

Scottish Amicable Maximum Income sets a minimum of £2,500 for starters with a subsequent minimum of £1,000 and does not offer a monthly savings option. Charges are 2.5 per cent initially, 0.5 annually, yield is 15 per cent.

Accura, the recently formed offshoot of American Express based in Beckenham, has no initial load on its money fund, but charges 0.75 per cent annually. The minimum lump-sum investment is £1,000; the savings plan minimum £50 a month.

Fidelity's Cash Fund, launched last February, has since grown to the biggest money fund, totalling £35 million. With an annual charge of 0.5 per cent, Fidelity Cash yields 14.9 per cent. Investment minimum is £1,000 or £50 monthly.

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A	B	C	B	18
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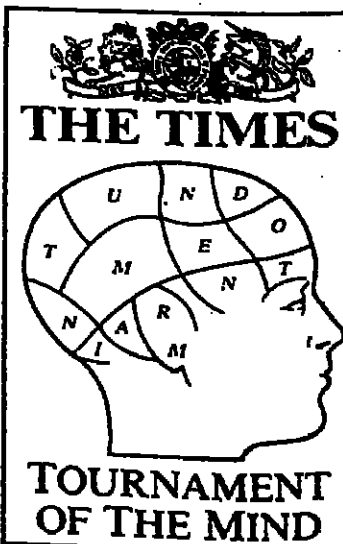
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SATURDAY MARCH 3 1990

Men so brave, orders so foolish



I am a fortunate man," said Adil Sahin, "the Lord has been good. He gave me this beautiful place to live my life. In these days we speak of, it was also a beautiful place to die." The village where Adil has lived all the 93 years of his life is Buyuk Anafarta on the Turkish peninsula called Gelibolu. We know it better as Gallipoli.

Seventy-five years ago, the 19-year-old shepherd Adil went with 32 others from his village to man hastily dug trenches along the Sari Bair ridge above his house. Only he and two others returned. Buyuk Anafarta did not suffer alone; the scale of its losses of young men is matched on the village war memorials of New Zealand and Nepal, in the memories of the aged on Australian sheep stations, and in the records of many now-disbanded British regiments.

From Sari Bair's peaks you look down on the golden crescents of a coast of haunting place names: Anzac Cove and Suvla Bay, Gully Beach and Cape Helles. Buried among the trees above the beaches are others: Lone Pine and The Nek, Pink Farm and Twelve Tree Copse. Even now, 75 years on, there are women of a half-dozen nations who cannot hear those names without weeping.

Some of those women will be joining a pilgrimage by people from all around the world to the graves of Gallipoli next month, when the anniversary will be marked by the speeches of statesmen near where 28 Victoria Crosses were won; 216 other men were awarded the Distinguished Service Order, 354 the Military Cross, and 719 the Distinguished Conduct Medal. But no politician will be able to find a sentence which rings true that does not lean with equally heavy emphasis on the heroics and the horror this land has seen.

That horror lives still with Arthur "Johnny" Bull, aged 94, who saw the worst of the fighting with the Royal Gloucester Hussars: "It was a horrible nightmare, suicide. A terrible, terrible time."

Bull was a stretcher-bearer at the infamous Chocolate Hill, which rapidly became thick with bodies. Former Corporal Bull, who now lives in Dyfed, spent his 20th birthday in a trench under fire: "They were shooting at you all time, day and night. All you could hear was guns going pop-pop-pop. We lived on bully beef, biscuits and water. The same water for washing and drinking. 'Wounded? I wish I had been. We all wanted to get wounded, just to get out of there.'"

In Adil's beautiful place during 1915, in a strip of killing ground never more than 12½ miles by five, the armies of the British Empire, France and Turkey suffered more than 500,000 casualties. More than 120,000 died on this finger of land, many in hand-to-hand fighting. "This is hell, all piled up," one Aussie wrote. No more than a quarter were ever identified; many of the rest simply became part of the very stuff of his glorious, brooding scenery. Very few are left to tell, as Adil

Anzac Cove, Suvla Bay, Gully Beach, Cape Helles . . . the Dardanelles. Next month, as a pilgrimage of politicians, old soldiers and widows heads for the Turkish beaches, a new generation will learn with horror of the futility of Gallipoli — the killing fields of 1915.

Brian James tells the dreadful story



Survivors: Adil Sahin (left) defended the vital Sari Bair ridge; Arthur Bull saw the worst of the fighting with the Royal Gloucester Hussars



can, what it was like. He was on duty at the north end of the bay that would become known as Anzac Cove at 4am on April 25. "My friend shouted 'Someone comes'. I saw big black shadows on the beach. We had great fear. But we fired. We were called back up into the hills. Still we fired. Of the 11 men in my post five were killed at once."

Adil did not know who they were fighting. "We were told they were English. But England had been our friend. We did not know why they were doing this to us. Then we were told that many came from this land of Australia. That was a great distance. Why had they come here?"

That was a question that was going to be asked, between prayers and curses, countless times in the months after that April morning. Yet the men from the Empire, volunteers all, had arrived singing with confidence in pursuit of a truly Grand Design. Winston Churchill, First Lord of the Admiralty, had proposed that the capture of the Gallipoli peninsula would give the Allies free use of the 40-mile stretch of water known as the Dardanelles. This in turn would give access to British fleets to the Sea of Marmara, past Istanbul

beneath their battleship guns, drive Turkey from the war, and open up the Black Sea ports, through which the Allies could supply and encourage Russia, then scarcely holding Germany on the eastern front.

Perhaps even more was played for than Churchill contemplated; historians now speculate whether, had the plan succeeded, the Russian Revolution would ever have taken place.

But the plan was never destined to succeed, because it was attended by so doleful a list of ignorances in its planning, incompetence in its execution, by failures in the leaders matched only by the heroism of the led, as to make that cool and eminent military historian Dupuy declare: "With the possible exception of the Crimea, the expedition was the most poorly mounted and ineptly controlled operation in modern British military history . . . the fighting men on both sides performed miracles." Of the millions of words written on the campaign most have been greatly more scathing.

The consequences of failure were many. Churchill was sacked from the Cabinet and was seldom trusted by military minds again until his re-emergence in the

Second World War. A previously unknown Turkish divisional commander named Kemal became a national hero and established the fame that led on to his emergence as Kemal Ataturk, the "father" of the modern Turkish republic. And an equally unknown Australian journalist, Keith Murdoch came, wrote what he had seen, and almost single-handedly ended the war.

The verdicts of historians on Gallipoli cannot be dismissed as hindsight. Soldiers of the time, one or two ranks down from the incompetent staff officers wished on the luckless commander, General Sir Ian Hamilton (who left for Turkey at 24 hours' notice with no plan and only a few tourist maps of his target) fumed as delays multiplied and chances of essential surprise vanished.

The consequences were immediate. On March 18 a formidable Allied fleet, including 18 capital ships, sailed into the Straits and began to reduce the out-gunned batteries barring the 40-mile passage. But pointless earlier assaults in November and January had so alerted the Turks that a small minesweeper had strewn charges along the line chosen by the British on their previous raid: now three old battleships were sunk and three more crippled.

This action, celebrated across Turkey every March 18 since as a victory marking the rebirth of a nation in decline since the rout of the Ottoman Empire, cast the die: the British fleet fled, its admiral declaring "First, let the troops clear the land."

According to the plan they should have been ready to do so. But incompetent staffwork meant that the approaching force was in chaotic order: units were on one ship, their guns on another, ammunition on a third. They had to return to Egypt to be combat-loaded. A month passed: every ship arrival was freely reported in Cairo newspapers; spies were taken daily around the assembly area on the island of Lemnos.

The German "advising" general, Liman von Sanders, given command of the Gallipoli garrison, could scarcely have been better prepared for his enemies. In February, Turkey had 15,000 troops on the peninsula. At 4.30am on April 25, when the first Anzacs tripped ashore, Adil Sahin was one of 88,000 men waiting to receive them. He remembers being chivvied back up the razor-backed ravines above the beaches throughout that first night by the ludicrously courageous charges of men apparently loving their first taste of war.

Next morning, British troops made their own landings on five beaches around Cape Helles on the southern tip of Gallipoli. Some, like the thousands on a converted collier, the River Clyde, stepped off into point-blank fire and were massacred. Others, like the men on "Y" beach, sauntered ashore, looked around the town of Krynith, paused to brew up on the slopes of the height called Achi

Baba and were still awaiting orders when the Turks arrived to chase them off Britain was to lose 10,000 dead trying in vain to take both Krynith and Achi Baba in the next nine months.

By dawn the Anzacs had taken the first ridge of hillocks. But the land won against withering fire by the end of the first day was all they were to hold for the next three months; trapped in a beachhead, usually within sight of snipers, always in range of artillery, and fighting daily with bayonet and grenades to cling to just a few feet of scrub.

Adil says: "All day just shooting. So many died. But it was our duty. We awoke and began fighting. At night we buried those who died. We knew they would be happy now. There was no horror

for us." The fatalistic courage of these Muslim infantrymen was yet another factor totally underestimated in the planning.

"Often we were without food," Adil says. "One day the government sent hazelnuts and raisins. The trenches of the Australians were only about 15 yards away. We threw them fruit. They threw back cigarettes and biscuits." This is a documented incident; the grudging regard of the combatants for each other is famous.

But more typical was another incident Adil, sharp-minded still at 93, recalls: "One day they waved flags from each side. And we walked out of the trenches to bury the dead." In fact, Turks do not formally bury their dead; what they wanted was to recover the rifles of the 1,000 men shot down

in one insane charge into 948,000 bullets (yes, someone counted). The Australians matched this sacrifice another day when they lost 2,400 men tackling a 300-yard section of front.

Apart from a regular diet of lack of water, lack of ammunition, lack of comprehensible orders, some days brought supreme horror. Like the afternoon of mad bravery when leap-frogging handfuls of Gurkhas, Gloucesters and Welch Fusiliers finally took the key peak of Chunuk Barr. They sent for reinforcements to fresh-landed troops assembled below. "Sorry, my men need a hot meal and tea before coming up," the red-tailed commander said. After the Turkish counter-attack, no British soldier was left alive on Chunuk. The

Continued overleaf

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THE BATTLE OF GALLIPOLI

The journalist who stopped a war

Continued from previous page
final débâcle came at Suvla Bay, when a fresh August landing to take the Turks from the rear saw 20,000 Empire troops land unopposed to scatter the 1,600 enemy facing them under the Sari Bair ridge. The plan visualized a dash for the heights: instead some units began digging in, others went bathing. Fresh Turkish battalions were strung along the heights when, two days later, the advance began, and was instantly halted.

Effectively, the Gallipoli campaign ended then; except that neither Hamilton and his mulish staff nor Churchill was prepared to concede so. It took the truth about life and death on the peninsula (brought to Britain by the dramatic means outlined on this page) to provoke the one Dardanelles operation that brought credit to British arms: the evacuation.

Hamilton had said it could not be done, not without losses of up to 40,000 of his men. His replacements, Generals Monro then Birdwood, produced a plan of breathtaking audacity. From midnight, night after night groups of men, six or a dozen at a time, filed down the gullies, silent and not smoking, moving soundlessly across roads and jetties lined with sacking and slid into barges.

On January 9, 1916, the last few, having mined their trenches and rigged Heath-Robinson devices operated by water dripping into cans to trigger abandoned rifles, crept away. The evacuation of 134,000 troops had cost not a single man.

Adil says: "At first we did not believe. Then we went down through the fog, and there was no one. We sat down; what was there to celebrate?"

The 57 Anzac veterans, average age 94, making their way to where Adil waits to greet them ("not as enemies, but comrades of a terrible time") will find the peninsula as empty today as then. Like the 35 sons and daughters of the British dead on the British Legion pilgrimage, like veteran Arthur Bull, Margaret Thatcher, Australia's prime minister and New Zealand's governor-general, like the bands and colour-parties from warships that will again sail the Narrows, they will be heartened by the care given the countless cemeteries.

The Turks have made the peninsular tip a national park, forbidding all development and gimcrack tourism and planting the once-bare hills with millions of trees. But only the imagination-dead can tread the trenches, where once "as the bullets hit blood hung in the air like the droplets of a hairdresser's spray" and not feel that Adil's beautiful land is peopled with a braver presence than those striding regiments of pine.

How much influence journalists truly wield can occupy much lunchtime discussion in bars, and at No 10 Downing Street. Few can claim to have written one long piece on an army "murdered by incapacity" and almost single-handedly stopped a war.

Keith Murdoch was aged 29 when he left Australia to run the London cable office of an Australian newspaper group. He was nervous about the assignment (because of his stammer a previous attempt to conquer Fleet Street had not succeeded) and, in any case, he saw the job as second prize, having narrowly failed to gain the one place allocated to Australia in the Press corps accompanying the Gallipoli landings four months before.

He was slightly mollified by having been given the chore by his government, for a fee of £25, of stopping off in Cairo to ask questions about the failure of the Australian forces' postal system and allegations that money sent from home was vanishing on route.

To pursue those inquiries, Murdoch cabled General Sir Ian Hamilton for permission to visit campaign headquarters on Imbros and the Anzac front. This, to Hamilton's later regret, was granted.

once Murdoch had signed an undertaking to write nothing that did not pass before the censor. Murdoch was part-prepared for Anzac Cove after talking on Imbros to Ellis Ashmead-Bartlett, an English war correspondent who was scathing about the conduct of the campaign. What he was to observe for himself over four days appalled him. Worse, because of his undertaking to the censor, he could not hope to report the truth to his newspaper in Australia.

It was Ashmead-Bartlett who provided the solution. Would Murdoch, asked the Englishman, agree to carry a sealed letter to Britain's Prime Minister, Asquith? Murdoch, guessing the contents, agreed. The plan misfired when, tipped off by another journalist, Hamilton warned the War Office about the letter and a British Intelligence officer boarded Murdoch's ship at Marseilles to seize his papers.

But Murdoch had been shown a way out: by placing himself under military discipline by signing the undertaking, he had also extended to himself every soldier's right to correspond freely with any MP. On September 21 Murdoch arrived in



The war reporter: Keith Murdoch revealed the awful truth in a letter to the Australian Prime Minister

London, went straight to the Australian group's offices in The Times building and began pecking out an 8,000-word letter to the Australian prime minister, Andrew Fisher, the former miner he had met while a parliamentary reporter.

I am indebted to Desmond Zwar, a journalist friend of many years, for what follows. Ten years ago Zwar persuaded the Australian government to release the Murdoch letter, "classified" since 1915. Murdoch had done his homework. His letter has piercing detail of what had been done badly, what alternatives were never tried. Much of it is almost sentimental in praise of Australian courage and spirit. More is deadly in its criticism of the campaign's leadership.

Excerpts give a flavour. After describing the inept chaos of Suvla, Murdoch continued:

Flies are spreading dysentery, and we must be evacuating 1,000 sick and wounded men every day. When the autumn rains come and unbury our dead, now lying under a light soil in our trenches, sickness must increase. Even now the stench is sickening. Alas, the good human stuff that there lies buried...

When spring comes we shall have about 60,000 men left. But they will not be an army. They will be a broken force, spent. The spirit

of Suvla is simply deplorable. The men have no confidence in the staff, little in London. Every man knows that the last operations were grossly bungled by the general staff, and that Hamilton has led a series of armies into a series of cul-de-sacs. You would hardly believe the evidence of your own eyes at Suvla. You would refuse to believe that these men were really British soldiers. So badly shaken are they by their miserable defeats, so affected by the lack of water and the monotony of salt beef and rice diet, that they show an atrophy of mind and body that is appalling.

I do not like to dictate this sentence, even for your eyes, but the fact is that after the first day at Suvla orders had to be issued to officers to shoot without mercy any soldiers who lagged behind or loitered in an advance.

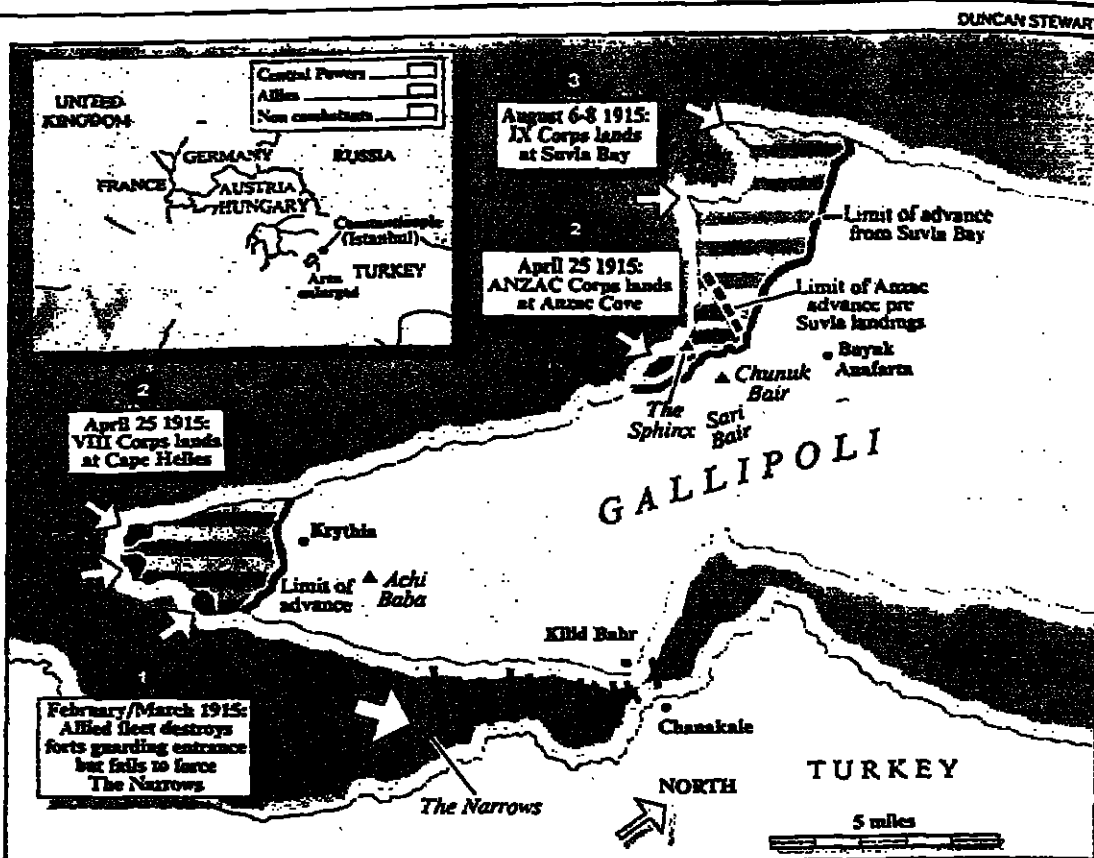
For the general staff and I fear, Hamilton, officers and men have nothing but contempt. They express it fearlessly. That however is not peculiar to Anzac. Seditious talk round every tin of bully beef on the peninsula, and it is only loyalty that holds the forces together.

Undoubtedly, the essential and first step to restore the morale of the shaken forces is to recall him and his Chief of Staff [General Brudenell], a man more cordially detested in our forces than Enver Pasha. The continuous and ghastly bungling over the Dardanelles enterprise was to be expected from such a General Staff as the British Army possesses, so far as I have seen it. The conceits and complacency of the red feather men are equalled only by their incapacity.

Along the lines of communications, and especially at Mudros, are countless high officers and conceited young cubs only playing at war. What can you expect of men who have never worked seriously, who have lived for their appearance and for social distinction and self-satisfaction, and who are now called on to conduct a gigantic war? Australians now loathe and detest any Englishman wearing red.

Murdoch finished his letter and went to lunch with Geoffrey Dawson, then editor of The Times, at Simpson's-in-the-Strand. Back at the office, Dawson sent a message: could Murdoch be persuaded to repeat what he had said to a member of the War Cabinet?

In the next few dizzying days the unknown reporter was grilled in



Plan of action: more than 120,000 Allied and Turkish troops died fighting for control of the Dardanelles



Turk's eye view: Anzac Cove (top left) today with its sombre memorial, and beachheads curving to North Cove

turn by Sir Edward Carson, chairman of the Dardanelles Committee; Lloyd George, Minister of Munitions; Lord Kitchener, Secretary for War; and by a bristlingly hostile Winston Churchill.

Asquith, meanwhile, asked to see a copy of the Murdoch letter, and at once ordered it duplicated as a Cabinet paper.

Hamilton, shown the letter, dismissed it as title-tattle ("No gentleman would believe it," he would later add). But the Cabinet was convinced otherwise. Twenty-four hours later Hamilton was

relieved of his command. Within days, General Monro had arrived to take charge and 48 hours later answered Lord Kitchener's terse cable... "the main issue... staying or leaving?" by recommending evacuation.

Murdoch remained in London for six years, given by his letter an instant entrée to the political establishment and becoming a favourite of the father of modern British journalism, Lord Northcliffe, before returning to Melbourne to begin building a newspaper empire of his own and earn a knighthood, with most

Australians only dimly aware of what he had done.

His son, Rupert, who created an even greater media empire, recalls: "My father remembered what he had seen all his life. Yet he seldom spoke of the part he played."

But Charles Bean, Australia's official war historian and an appalled witness of Gallipoli, wrote: "It is a bit of a shock to find that what the whole system cannot do after months of close attention, a single visitor can do within days... that is make up the mind of the British Government."



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A CHILDHOOD: LADY ANTONIA FRASER

'I was the person who nobody would walk with in the crocodile to Salisbury Cathedral'

When Antonia Fraser was born her father, Frank Pakenham, later to become the Earl of Longford, was a Conservative and a Protestant. By the time she was eight, he was Catholic and Labour. In the meantime he had been an Oxford don, the prospective Parliamentary Labour candidate for Oxford City in 1938, and had become personal assistant to Sir William Beveridge in setting up the Welfare State. Her mother had contested Cheltenham as a Labour candidate in 1935, and was a Workers' Educational Association lecturer.

Antonia was the first of their eight children. The next child, Thomas, 11 months younger, has been her friend throughout life. Over the years American magazines have enjoyed making a point of her aristocratic lineage (the Longford title goes back to 1785), but they miss the point. Antonia Fraser's childhood was academic and socialist politics in the educationally competitive forcing ground of north Oxford.

In fact, her earliest memories are of Oxford: Magdalen lit up for King George V's jubilee, being taken to see her father play rugby, and his freezing rooms at Christ Church. For a time during the war, the Pakenhams were evacuated with the families of three other dons to an Elizabethan manor house. But then, as everyone knew, Oxford was not going to be bombed, so it was back to the Dragon School and a large, turn-of-the-century house.

It was, she thinks, a very special kind of childhood in that, since so many of the parents of the children were dons, it was highly competitive. "The parents took a great interest in their children's education. So, not only were you competing for it, but people did ask you about your school reports and how the children of fellow dons were doing."

"So it was very competitive, but I don't think children mind that as much as it is sometimes supposed, because we all had a lot of fun bicycling about north Oxford and swimming in the Cherwell."

The Dragon School was, of course, really a boys' school — 400 boys to 20 girls, most of whom were daughters of parents who were away. Faced with these kinds of odds, the girls simply got on with being boys. Antonia playing wing three-quarter at rugby, and being top of the form.

Obviously bright, and an inordinately fast reader ("really quite alarmingly fast: I'd win money off grown-ups for reading Scott's novels. It's just a faculty like running fast, nothing to do with intelligence"), she quickly appreciated that the way to win favour was to do well at school. "My mother was a great believer in education for her children and very competitive, and she was always pleased when I did well."

Her mother was the more practical of her parents, the one

who brought up the children. "My father was almost exactly like he is now. He's done many, many different things, but he was always very absent-minded and vague, famous for taking a taxi from one end of the road to the other."

"He was extremely kind, but also extremely remote. He didn't give me the feeling that I could pour out my heart to him, but I don't think parents of that generation did. I always felt that if I was in terrible trouble he'd be the person I'd go to. And, in fact, when my own children have got into various scrapes, it's been off to lunch at the House of Lords with their grandfather. That's the seal that they're in trouble."

She was already interested in writing and, at the age of 10, wrote a poem for Winston Churchill on the occasion of his birthday, and sent it to Downing Street.

"The next morning, at breakfast, my mother said, 'By the way, Antonia, you were thanked for your poem on the radio last night'. Now the thing about this story is that I wasn't a bit surprised. I thought it was a good poem and so I went off to school very pleased at having been thanked. It wasn't until weeks afterwards that I discovered that what was actually said was 'Mr Churchill wishes to thank all the people who have sent him cards and letters on the occasion of his birthday'."

At 12, she moved to a Church of England girls' boarding school, Godolphin School, at Salisbury, an experience so bleak that she even omits it from her entry in *Who's Who*. "I can't think of anything good about it, except that our house-mistress used to read aloud Dorothy Sayers's *The Man Born to Be King*."

"I've no doubt I was precocious and not very interesting to know for a lot of girls, but you know, it was horrible. I was the person who nobody would walk with in the crocodile to Salisbury Cathedral."

Some years ago, she mentioned this fact to a gossip columnist and shortly afterwards received a letter from a Godolphin old girl saying, "The truth is you were not popular because you were not very nice."

There was one happy outcome of Godolphin, however, in that one of her old teachers recognized herself in the first *Jenna Shaw* mystery, *Quiet As A Nun*. "I had a letter after all those years. She's over 80 now and lives in Bath. We still correspond."

At 13, she chose to become a Catholic. Her father had been a Catholic since the beginning of the war and she had always felt "a great, but perfectly childlike, leaning towards the Catholic church. I liked the incense, the mystery. I liked religion and I liked that it was very strange to me."

"My mother didn't become Catholic until 1946, after which the younger children were dunked in the font again. Thomas and I were allowed to choose. So I chose."

The choice meant transferring to a Catholic school, St Mary's Convent in Ascot. "I loved all the



Oxford daughter born to win: Lady Antonia Fraser today and (left, inset) as a child. "It was very competitive, but I don't think children mind that as much as is sometimes supposed"

ritual, the white veils on Sunday and the black veils for going to mass every morning. When my daughter went to the same school 30 years later, I was appalled. They never seemed to go to mass at all."

By now, she was discovering that being the daughter of a Labour Minister (her father was at Attlee's post-war government, and ended up as Minister of Aviation) made her somewhat "out of kilter" with the other girls at school.

"When I'd been at the Dragon School, it seemed to me that we were extremely poor in that my father only had a don's salary which was traditionally small, and there were eight of us in the house. So we lived like other people around us, most of whom would, in the war, have been socialists."

"I can remember putting leaflets through letter boxes and asking people, 'Will you be voting for Frank Pakenham?' That was a very important part of my child-

hood. Then, when I went to Godolphin and to Ascot, I found it was very, very odd that everybody was a Conservative and that they told jokes about the Labour Party being like a bunch of bananas green at first, then yellow and then rotten."

As well as being a rapid and wide reader (she was addicted to

nevertheless, by 15 she had taken her Higher School Certificate, in which she did very well. People seemed to take examinations earlier in those days, she thinks, and has found it very odd to find her own children lumbering around the house doing A levels at 18.

The family had by now moved to London and various jobs and hobbies filled in before she went to university. For a time, she was an accounts typist, then studied French poetry at the Lyceum, and then moved on to Fenwick's hat department, from which she was sacked for telling the Press that she believed in "Sits and no Sars" — she didn't want to work on Saturdays, but she did want to be able to sit down.

By now, the family was living in Hampstead Garden Suburb, which she hated because it was so far from the Tube. "So I used to stay with my aunt and uncle, Anthony Powell, who lived in Chester Gate. He was just beginning to write *A Dance to the Music*

of Time, and because he was so charming and interesting, I formed the impression that a writer's life was a very nice one. That had a very great influence on me."

There had probably never been much doubt that she would follow both her parents to Oxford, but she now thinks it was probably a mistake. For the only time in her life she chose not to work very hard and didn't particularly enjoy her days there. "I'd grown up in Oxford. It was my home town. I should probably have gone to Cambridge or somewhere else."

She never thought she was particularly pretty. "I remember as a little girl my nanny saying, 'Never mind, Antonia, Betty Grable has a big mouth, too'. And I rushed to *Photoplay* and there was Betty Grable with this enormous mouth covered in dripping red lipstick. I howled with frustration."

"Although my mother was good at praising academic excellence, she's not at all vain herself, and never saw the necessity to tell me that I was pretty, whether I was or

not. I've reacted against that with my own children." (She has six.) "I'm always telling them how pretty they are. I think they are."

She was, of course, always at parties and always in love. It was a time of coffee bars, Perspex coffee cups and rubber plants. "I couldn't think what was happening to the world. It was so enchanting."

From Oxford she went into publishing and worked for George Weidenfeld until, at 23, she married Hugh Fraser. But already she was writing professionally: her first children's book was published when she was 22.

Now married to Harold Pinter, with three grown-up children still living at home, she writes every day, and is still the romantic. Years ago, she said: "It seems to me that we only have a very few romantic moments in our lives, and if we let one go, then our lives are so much the poorer for it."

Photograph by Stephen Markeson

by Ray Connolly

thrillers), she was also by now writing more — romantic thrillers and historical romances. Indeed, the publication this month of her seventh *Jenna Shaw* mystery, *The Cavalier Case* (Bloomsbury, £12.99), is continuing a long tradition of novels written in between her historical biographies, from school days. At Ascot, what made her happiest was winning the history prize. But one year, when she should have been swotting for exams, she disappeared into the library with *Gone With The Wind*.

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FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT

From rags to respectability

SOWETO
3 MAR
1990

At dawn a grey haze from the wood-burning stoves hangs over this squalid ghetto, as South Africa's largest dormitory, Johannesburg's sprawling townships, for two million blacks, begins to stir. Students in neatly pressed black and white uniforms set off for school, a man who has found a patch of wasteland tends a herd of goats, and 400,000 blacks, from factory workers to businessmen, begin the seven-mile journey to central Johannesburg to keep the nation's industries going.

Even from the air a new visitor about to touch down at Jan Smuts Airport cannot mistake Soweto, the exotic-sounding acronym for the South-Western Townships.

Most noticeable is the conspicuous absence of swimming pools, dotted so liberally about the gardens of white suburban homes. And there is also Soweto's incongruous setting: a sprawling patchwork of tiny homes aligned along dirt roads and hidden behind the neat, square hills of ancient mine dumps.

Consult most world atlases and you would be hard-pressed to locate South Africa's largest population centre. In its 86-year history of neglect and despair no one ever intended Soweto to become anything more than a "location", a forgotten city kept out of sight where blacks went to sleep in the evening before returning to work the next day.

Even in Soweto's infancy the omens were not good.

The first settlement near the present township consisted of an emergency camp for black migrant workers who, in 1904, had to be evacuated from their squalid dwellings in Johannesburg when bubonic plague swept through the community.

Since then the township's legacy has been one of cruelty and violence perpetrated by the authorities against the inhabitants and by Sowetans against each other, a by-product of overcrowding, high unemployment and poor schooling.

Attempts to improve conditions were set back with the advent of the National Party and the re-

Despair gives way to hope as an affluent black middle class emerges in Soweto, reports Nicholas Beeston

movals enforced under apartheid legislation. From 1953 to 1968 more than 22,000 black families and 6,500 single people were rounded up by the police and troops and dumped unceremoniously in Soweto from the Johannesburg district of Sophiatown, since tastelessly renamed Triomf (Triumph) for its white inhabitants.

Even under more reform-minded National Party governments the few improvements to the township were overshadowed by outbreaks of violence.

On June 16, 1976, 15 people were killed when students demonstrated against being forced to learn in Afrikaans in school. Since the uprising and subsequent riots in the mid-1980s hardly a family in the township has been left unscathed.

The hardships endured by the long-suffering Sowetans will be familiar to Nelson Mandela, who three weeks ago returned to his modest brick bungalow in Orlando West for the first time in 27 years and told 120,000 of the township's youngsters that the existence of the ghetto in its present form would be unacceptable in a new South Africa.

But if he finds time to tour the township he will hardly be able to recognize the dramatic changes that have occurred since his incarceration.

Opposite his home, across the now-paved street, a complex of roomy villas with gardens and

garages known locally as "Beverly Hills" has sprouted up to house the black elite of doctors, lawyers and businessmen.

Highways, a university and a shopping centre, all the trappings of an infrastructure previously denied Sowetans, have mushroomed in the past decade.

And throughout the township, judging from the luxury cars and the new housing developments, there are signs that a new class, the "buppies" (black upwardly mobile professionals), is making its mark.

Once banned from owning businesses and property and restricted by law to menial jobs, black businessmen involved with everything from fast food restaurants to small factories are blossoming, and with them an affluent black middle class is emerging.

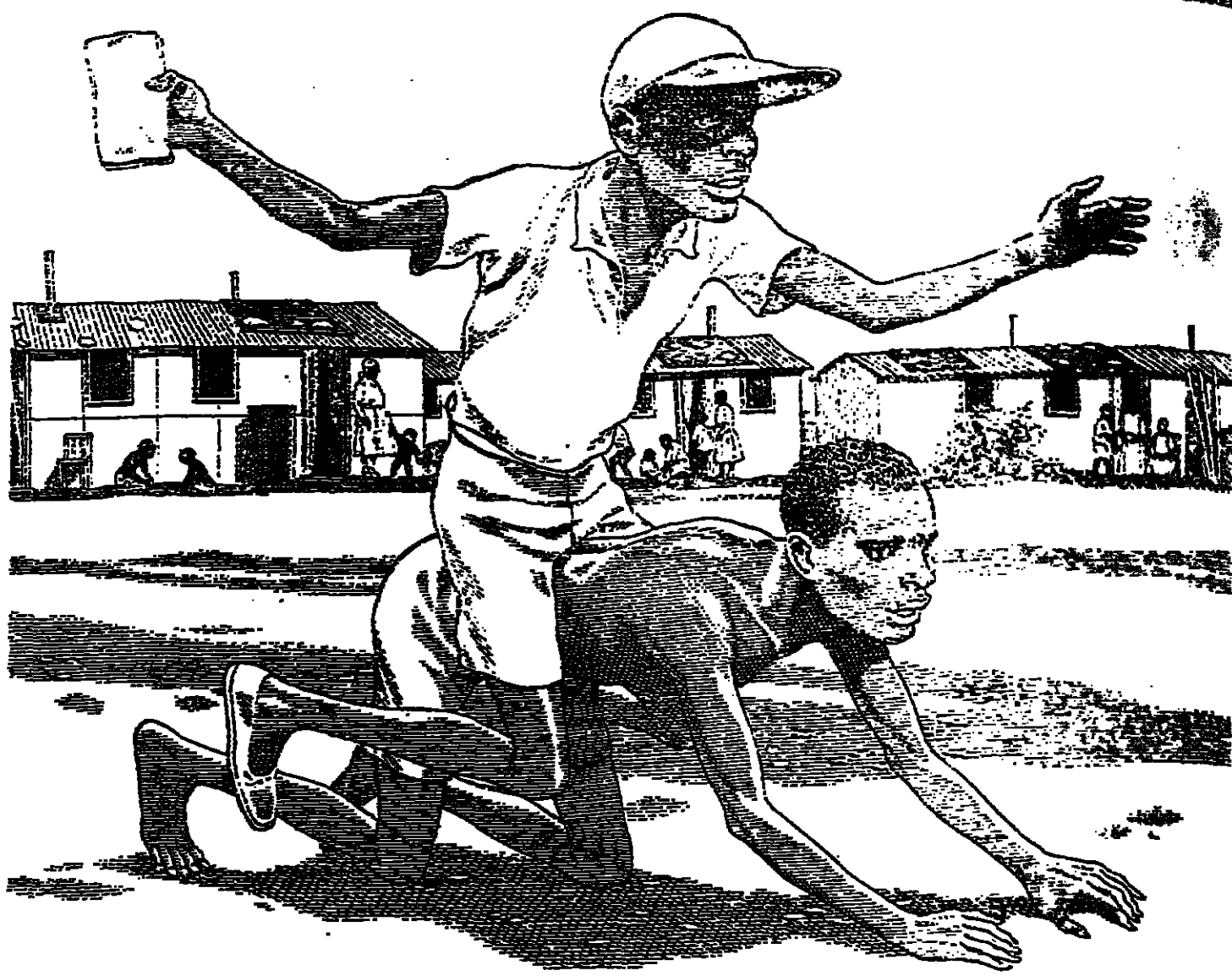
You don't have to look much further than Godfrey Moloi's Blue Fountain jazz club to be struck by the dramatic changes.

Mr Moloi, aged 55, self-confessed one-time gangster, boot-legger, jazz musician and now respected member of Soweto society, looks like a Dixieland jazz musician with a straw boater covering his bald head, two-tone brogues and an array of signet rings, one bearing a coat of arms he recently had designed for his family.

Mr Moloi's personal history, related in a recent autobiography, *My Life*, embodies the story of the township.

The son of an Anglican priest, Mr Moloi and his family were forced out of Johannesburg's Prospect district in 1936 by the authorities and relocated to a tiny three-room "matchbox" house in Soweto.

"Have you heard of the 'Donkey Game'?" he asked. "That was a game I played as a child. One boy in the street who had richer parents than the rest of us would come out every day with a slice of buttered bread and shout 'Who will be my donkey?' We would all fall to our knees and start praying. The boy would select his donkey of the day and ride around on his back before allowing him to have a bite of his bread. I was good at playing the comic and I was his favourite donkey, but I don't want to see that happening again in Soweto."



Mr Moloi runs a scholarship programme for gifted black students and a schools football competition aimed at keeping young blacks in the classroom.

"I am trying to set some standards in the community. For instance, today I received a call from the Foreign Ministry asking me to go to Pretoria to see the minister, P. W. Botha."

"We get white people driving all the way from Johannesburg to come to my club. I want to prove to my people that we can do it if we try."

One of his regulars at the Blue Fountain, a successful entrepreneur called Sam, eulogizes Mr Moloi and what he stands for. "Someone tried to get in here tonight wearing shorts," he said between sips of his vodka and soda. "Mr Moloi won't let any person in off the street. We told him to go home and only come back when he was properly dressed. I think we should make this club members only."

The talk this evening is not of

revolution but of more down-to-earth bourgeois concerns. "The problem with the housing market in South Africa is the high interest rates which have pushed mortgages up and made it very difficult for first-time buyers," complained Joe, a black property developer who sounds more like a Clapham estate agent than a man who, until a few years ago, was regularly arrested by police for pass law offences.

The bible for this new breed of young blacks is *Tribune*, a glossy fashion magazine which last month treated its readers to society photographs of black millionaires attending the J & B Metropolitan Handicap, one of the premier events on the South African horse-racing calendar, a feature on the new Audi Turbo, canoeing in Natal and Yves Saint Laurent's new collection, modelled in the tiny kingdom of Lesotho.

"When we first published there was criticism that we were following the rules of the oppressor," said the magazine's editor Maude Motanyane. "But now we are accepted, even Zwelakhe Sisulu (son of African National Congress veteran Walter Sisulu) drives an Audi."

For some, like the richest black businessman in South Africa, Richard Maponya, who owns the BMW dealership in Soweto, wealth and respectability have taken him away from Soweto to the prosperous white northern suburbs of Johannesburg.

When the Group Areas Act, which restricts races to certain areas, is eventually lifted, there are fears that well-to-do blacks will abandon the township to those who cannot afford to move and condemn Soweto indefinitely to sub-class status.

Asked about the threat to the township's future, Mr Mandela said: "When Archbishop Tutu had the chance to move into an

affluent white area he chose to remain among his own people here in Soweto.

"The blacks in Soweto won't move into white suburbs overnight, many don't have the money and others don't have the inclination."

Certainly one man who will not budge is Mr Moloi.

"I will never leave Soweto," he said. "It is my dream that people will be allowed to build their own homes, run their businesses and turn this place into a proper city one day."

"We ought to get rid of apartheid but that does not mean that all the races will start living together. You just have to look at Britain or the United States — in fact anywhere in the world, Christians don't live with Muslims, or Protestants with Catholics, or blacks with whites."

"I will be here to the end," he vowed. "I even have my grave ready here. I would not want to die anywhere else."

MUSEUMS

Homes for a missing Muse

More artists and fewer academics — the major European museums need new heart, Kenneth Hudson argues

Most European museums, including those in Britain, set out to teach their visitors something.

Learning is not before pleasure, which is another way of saying that museums have too many academically minded people on their staffs and too few artists and poets.

This is most noticeable in art galleries, where paintings are still filed along walls exactly as they were a century ago, and visitors leave feeling that they had been studying for an examination in art history.

In the past 20 years, a number of pioneering museums on the Continent have broken away from this tradition, in the belief that a museum's main task is to change attitudes. This means appealing to the heart as much as the head. It also means a big shake-up in the curator industry, so that places such as the Louvre, the Uffizi and the British Museum, which are essentially study warehouses, no longer receive such a marked priority. The museum map of Europe needs redrawing.

The Galerie David d'Angers, in Angers, western France, could be described as the most important European art museum since the Second World War. Its curator, Vivienne Huchard, saw her opportunity.

Pierre-Jean David, the inspiration for the museum, was born in Angers six years before the French Revolution and made a name for himself as a designer of public monuments and medals. He is known as David d'Angers, to distinguish him from Jacques-Louis David, Napoleon's favourite painter.

When he died in 1856, David left a large collection of plaster models of his bronze statues to his native town. These lay in the streets of Angers for almost 130 years until Mme Huchard thought of a way of putting them to good use.

Next to the Musée des Beaux-Arts was a ruined medieval church, roofless and abandoned. Mme Huchard decided to restore the building and install her army of plaster statues, creating a David d'Angers museum around them. "The plasterers are the originals," she says. "The bronzes in Paris and elsewhere are only copies."

But the statues are only a

beginning. What this remarkable museum offers is a complete portrait of David — who he was, how he worked, what his domestic life was like and what his contemporaries thought of him. Visitors leave confident they know as much about David d'Angers as anyone else in the world. And that, for an art museum, really is a revolution.

You get much the same feeling at the Paul Delvaux Museum at St Idesbald, along the coast from Ostend. M Delvaux, now in his nineties, is a much-loved figure in Belgium. His museum is not elitist; it assumes visitors will like the paintings, which are not wildly obscure.

The lesson to be learnt from Angers and St Idesbald seems to be that the future of art museums lies with places which are small and concentrate on a single artist with local associations. As soon as several artists have to share the same building, intellectualism, schools and movements take over and the common man goes elsewhere. Museums have allowed

themselves to be prisoners of their titles for too long. But the barriers are gradually coming down.

Ennmen, a small town in the north-east of The Netherlands, has one of Europe's great pioneering museums, the Noorder Dierpark. It is an invigorating blend of zoo, natural history museum, ethnographical museum and conservation centre, based on the conviction that man and other living creatures are interdependent.

Under the guidance of another museum genius, Aleid Reusen-Oosting, the museum has enjoyed a spectacular growth in popularity during the past 20 years. The Noorder Dierpark is a crusading museum, not an academic retreat, and it provides a quickfire series of bright, well-designed exhibitions to encourage frequent return visits. There are no cages; elephants and giraffes stroll about together and exotic butterflies settle on the heads of visitors. How

the Somerset Light Infantry. Salisbury Museum, The Kings House, 65 The Close, Salisbury, Wiltshire (0722 332151). Adult £1.50, concessions £1, child 50p. Mon-Sat 10am-5pm. Until April 10.

CENTENARY CELEBRATION: Birds, butterflies, minerals and fossils in a centenary show. Booth Museum of Natural History, Dyke Road, Brighton, Sussex (0273 552586). Admission free. Open Mon-Wed and Fri-Sat 10am-5pm, Sun 2-5pm. Until September 2.

TILE TREASURES: Two outstanding groups of ceramics — a selection from the 400 tin-glazed specimens from the Jonathan Horne collection, mainly from the 18th century, and 1883 scenes from *Chanderela* told in Arts and Crafts style by Morris Marshall Faulkner. Liverpool Museum, William Brown Street, Liverpool (051 2070001). Admission free. Mon-Sat 10am-5pm, Sun 2-5pm. Permanent exhibition.

wonderful it would be if the Natural History Museum and the Museum of Mankind in London were to move their public exhibitions to a more modest and suitable building in Regent's Park Zoo.

Until the Seventies, industrial and technical museums were precisely that. Then Peter Schirmbeck, at Rüsselsheim, near Frankfurt, smashed the mould. He broadened the concept of an industrial museum and showed that national trends could be more effectively illustrated in local terms.

Rüsselsheim is where Opel cars are made. Herr Schirmbeck used the fact to create a new type of industrial museum. He showed, in an impressionistic style, what the small town was like in the 1870s before Adam Opel arrived to build his factory, and what the factory had done to change the lives of local people.

Today, there are certainly more roots in Continental museums, more people with the courage and ability to select telling images. This is nowhere better illustrated than at Heideheim, near Stuttgart, in the new Museum of Coaches, Carriages, Carts and Wagons.

The display here has been selected and arranged to place horse-drawn transport within its social context, showing how changes in transport have affected people's habits and thinking. Care has been taken to provide variety, interest and drama in the presentations and to ensure the museum reveals a sense of history, not merely a series of objects.

In the art of selection and of making every exhibit in a museum work hard, the Swedes and the West Germans are making the running. It is no accident that both are wealthy countries, and not afraid to throw things away.

The impoverished British, by contrast, are lagging behind. We are the people who lumber ourselves with enormous suitcases when we go on holiday because we cannot decide what to leave behind. The ability to prune hard, to be simple, and to rely on symbols are the marks of an advanced culture.

● Kenneth Hudson is director of the European Museum of the Year Award. His Cambridge Guide to the Museums of Europe will be published later this year.

COLLECTING

Peter Philp reports on the enduring attraction of duelling weapons

A things to collect, duelling pistols fall into the fearsome but fascinating category. The thought of two men standing back to back, taking 10 paces and turning to fire at each other in the name of honour still sparks off a *frisson*, however much you may agree with Queen Victoria who, in 1844, was said to be "desirous of devising some expedient by which the barbarous practice of duelling should be as much as possible discouraged".

Legally, anyone found guilty of killing his opponent was a murderer and should have been sentenced to be hanged, but very few British juries were willing to convict.

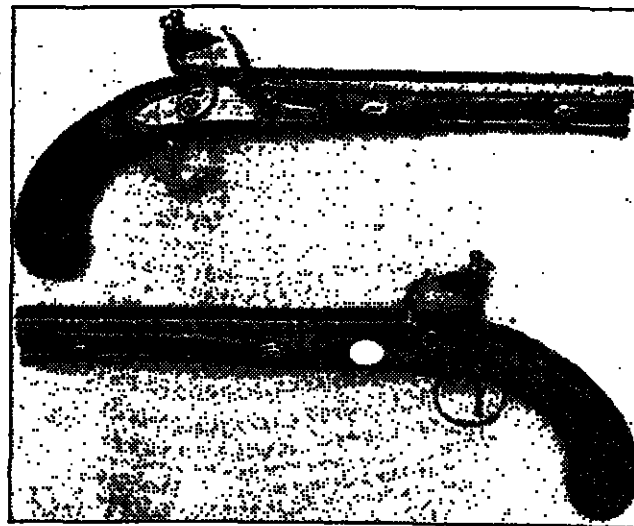
In the reign of George III (1760-1820), 172 duels were fought in Britain, of which 91 ended in death. Confrontations were commonplace between army officers and newspaper editors, instead of having to defend expensive libel actions, were often called out to settle matters quickly and cheaply. In 1821 the editor of the *London Magazine*, John Scott, died in a duel, and in 1835 Mr Black of the *Morning Chronicle* had to face an inmate reader.

On the Continent, duels of honour (as distinct from early judicial combats and trials by battle) were fought from the 15th century onwards, often for frivolous reasons: a Neapolitan aristocrat faced 14 opponents to uphold his claim that Dante was a finer poet than Ariosto. He later confessed that he had never read works by either of them. In England, it was only after the Restoration of Charles II in 1660 that, following a lead from France, duelling became a fashionable way of settling disputes.

From that time pistols began to enjoy preference over swords, because the earlier, somewhat unreliable types of firing mechanism — match-lock, wheel lock and snaplock — had been largely replaced by the flintlock. The first known example of this type of weapon was made for Louis XIII circa 1610-15 by an artist-craftsman, Martin le Bourgeois of Lisieux. By about 1700 it had come into general use throughout Europe.

Although many flintlock pistols are richly decorated with carving, engraving and silver mounts, the purpose-built duelling weapon was

Pistols to fight for



Pistols for two: flintlock duelling weapons made by John Twigg circa 1785, sold by Christie's South Kensington for £4,800

more often plain, with brown or blue barrels that did not distract the marksman's eye by reflecting light. Some had rifled bores, but these were considered unsporting by dedicated duellists. Some, however, were sufficiently devoted to have pistols made with rifling that stopped a few inches short of the muzzle, so that, on cursory inspection, it would pass unnoticed.

On firing the flintlock produced live sparks which gave a warning to a wary target and made it unreliable in wet weather. To overcome these difficulties, a Scottish clergyman, Alexander Forsyth, devised a method that he

patented in 1807, using a fulminate to set off the charge. This proved unsuitable for the flintlock, but experiments led to the invention of the percussion cap pistol, for which a well-known gun-maker, Joseph Egg, claimed the credit.

In fact, a number of gunsmiths contributed variations and improvements that, when applied to the duelling pistol, made it a deadly, all-weather weapon, justifying Queen Victoria's concern about the number of her soldiers and politicians who were being killed or maimed in duels.

A fine pair of pistols commands more than double the price of a single specimen, but a good shot may feel it safe to economize by buying only one — a late-17th century flintlock holster pistol, perhaps, for about £500, against £3,000-£5,000 for a fine pair of 18th or early-19th century duelling pistols by a well-known maker.

The faking of antique firearms has become a small but important branch of the armaments industry, and although I have heard no loud reports concerning cases of disputed authenticity ending in the traditional demand for "pistols for two and coffee for one", it is safest to buy from reputable specialists in the field.

● Specialist auctioneers: Willis & Willis, West Street Auction Galleries, Lewes, Sussex (0273 480208); Christie's South Kensington, 85 Old Brompton Road, SW7 (01-881 7611).

● Specialist dealers: Michael German, 38b Kensington Church Street, W8 (01-937 2771); Arbour Antiques, Poets' Arbour, Sheep Street, Stratford-upon-Avon (0789 293453).

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John Shaw

● On Wednesday The Times guide to antiques and collectables focuses on Oriental textiles and carpets

SALES GUIDE

LIGHT FANTASTIC: Hall lanterns, wall sconces and chandeliers are included in this sale of light fittings and furniture. Also an unusual George III oval Pembroke table (2000-£1,200), handsome Edwardian Carlton House desk by Edwards and Roberts (est £4,000-£5,000), Henry Spencer & Sons, 20 The Square, Reigate, Surrey (0777 708833). Sale: Mon 11am.

STICKING POINT: Private collection of jewelled stickpins. Largely Victorian, the 78 lots include stages and horses' heads, beads, squirrels and a salmon (est £20-£120/£250-£300). Also an attractive Fatze enamel brooch of polychrome cloisonné

enamel (est £3,000-£4,000). Phillips, 1 Old King Street, Bath (0225 310608/310709). Viewing: today 9am-1pm, Mon 9-10.30am. Sale: Mon 11am.

COIN CAVALCADE: Ancient, English and fine coins, commemorative medals and bank notes. Some gold coins from Dutch and Spanish treasuries. Christie's, King Street, St James's, London SW1 (01-839 9080) Viewing: Sun 2-5pm, Mon 9am-4pm. Sale: Tues 10am and 2-3pm.

GLASS GALORE: A 61-lot collection of English drinking glasses opens this auction of European glass and ceramics (est £140-£160/£500-£800). Probably the

most expensive will be a wine glass with an opaque twist stem enamelled in the Beilby workshops with a vine border (2800-£1,000). Phillips, 101 New Bond Street, London W1 (01-629 6602). Viewing: Sun 2-5pm, Mon and Tues 8.30am-4.30pm, Wed 8.30-10am. Sale: Wed 11am and 2-3pm.

FINE FLOWERS: Botanical prints from Dr Robert Thomson's "Temple of Flora" 1798-1807 are the highlights. The 36 prints are estimated to make between £200-£300 and £2,000-£3,000.

Christie's South Kensington, 85 Old Brompton Road, London SW7 (01-881 7611). Viewing: Mon 1-7.30pm,



THE NED SHERRIN COLUMN

Gloves off for an understudy

I have in my time been understudied by Hermione Gingold and played (as narrator of *Side By Side By Sondheim*) by artists as varied as Peggy Lee, Dorothy Lamour, Russell Harty, Michael Aspel, Sheridan Morley and two glove puppets called Kukla and Ollie. But I had to wait until Saturday to be a stand-in myself — for Frank Warren, the gunned-down boxing promoter.

I have never met Mr Warren although I did once shake hands with Terry Marsh, the fighter accused of trying to arrange his death, a few years ago when he was made a Man of the Year.

I owed my new role to BBC Northern Ireland who had booked Mr Warren (suddenly indisposed) to appear on *The Show*, an ambitious late Saturday night entertainment which is transmitted from its Belfast studio in Belfast. Two comedies and a host of actors conducted 75 minutes of satirical sketches, songs, interviews, badinage and general jollity.

It was my first visit to Ulster. My man in Deal had warned me that he was once lifted off the floor of a pub in Earls Court by the late Patrick Magee for using the word and not put down until he corrected it to "the six counties", so I travelled cautiously. The journey from the airport skirted the top of the Falls Road but my visit was cocooned in car, hotel and studio.

What did surprise me was the range of subjects covered in the sketches and the number of public figures mocked by the actors and impersonators. Ian Paisley, Gerry Fitt, Barry McGuigan, John Cole, Sir John Hermon, Peter Brooks and Gerry Adams were all treated with scant respect, and the impersonation of Adams was wittily done as a soundless mime to accommodate current broadcasting restrictions.

My fellow guest was the film critic Alexander Walker. Over dinner he told me that in 1987 he judged an Ulster film festival. He spoke lyrically of *The Best Man*, the winning entry, produced by a Catholic priest. It has been shown on RTE but not on British screens, big or small. His enthusiasm made me think we are missing a gem.

I AM NOT a great fan of Irish jokes but John Junkin has one which swears is true. He was touring with Neil Simon's play, *The Odd Couple*, and they reached Nottingham where Junkin and his co-star celebrated their successful opening not wisely but too well.

When John retired late to bed in his hotel he dropped into a deep sleep. Half an hour later he became

aware of a noise which, as he wrenched himself into consciousness, he recognized as a thunderous pounding on his bedroom door.

He groped his way blearily to open it and was confronted by the Irish night porter, who looked at him solicitously. "Excuse me, sir," he said, "are you the gentleman who's locked out of his room?"

THE STOLEN coaster mystery is ravaging BBC Radio. Suspects in this crime of the decade include Sir Anthony Jay, Alan Coren and his daughter Victoria who may have been working in tandem, Ray Davies of the Kinks, Carol Thatcher, Victoria Mather, Jools Holland, Andy Kershaw and John Walters, the senior Radio One producer. I have been interrogated but I am convinced of my innocence.

The victim of this dastardly crime is Caroline Millington, the dynamic, crop-haired director of CAMP (BBC speak for Current Affairs Magazine Programmes). The missing objects which she prizes above Fabergé are cardboard coasters decorated with a cartoon of the Rt Hon Norman Tebbit, the man who sees the BBC as "a sunset home for third-rate minds and Red Queens". Mr Tebbit features on the coasters as Prospero with Ariel, in a parody of a famous BBC design.

Suspects gained access to Ms Millington's office during a party she threw to celebrate 200 editions of *Loose Ends*. When their revels ended their hostess discovered her loss. She has given Ian Gardhouse, her producer, strict instructions to retrieve the valued coasters. Anyone having information about this crime should ring Mr Gardhouse, not Nick Ross.

NO ONE should complain about lack of variety in recent mainstream West End offerings. Of three recent first nights, Alan Ayckbourn's *Man of the Moment* at the Globe wins for confident marshalling of all the elements of a commercial hit. *Exchange*, the Russian play adapted by Michael Frayn at the Vaudeville, was more solemn but it eschewed those clouds of grey which Ira Gershwin assured us any Russian play can guarantee.

On the first night, a real drama was played out on stage in tandem with the written plot. Our attention was riveted to a creaking basket chair which threatened to disintegrate in Act Two under the weight of the dying Colin Douglas.

By the time it was Doreen Mantle's turn to expire on it the leading man, Martin Jarvis, had cleverly fixed some support but Miss Mantle still perched suspensefully on the edge.

The first night audience for Jerry Hall's debut in *Bus Stop* was a severe disappointment. It behaved like the crowd of celebs we had expected, prolonging the interval interminably in the bar and in social groups in the stalls, in spite of being severely short on glamour.

Despite good performances, the

limp old play never grasped the attention of a group which consisted largely of gossip columnists, critics, media folk and showbiz lawyers. I did see Jade Jagger, and Ross Benson told me there were two marquises upstairs, but it was not much of a turn-out.

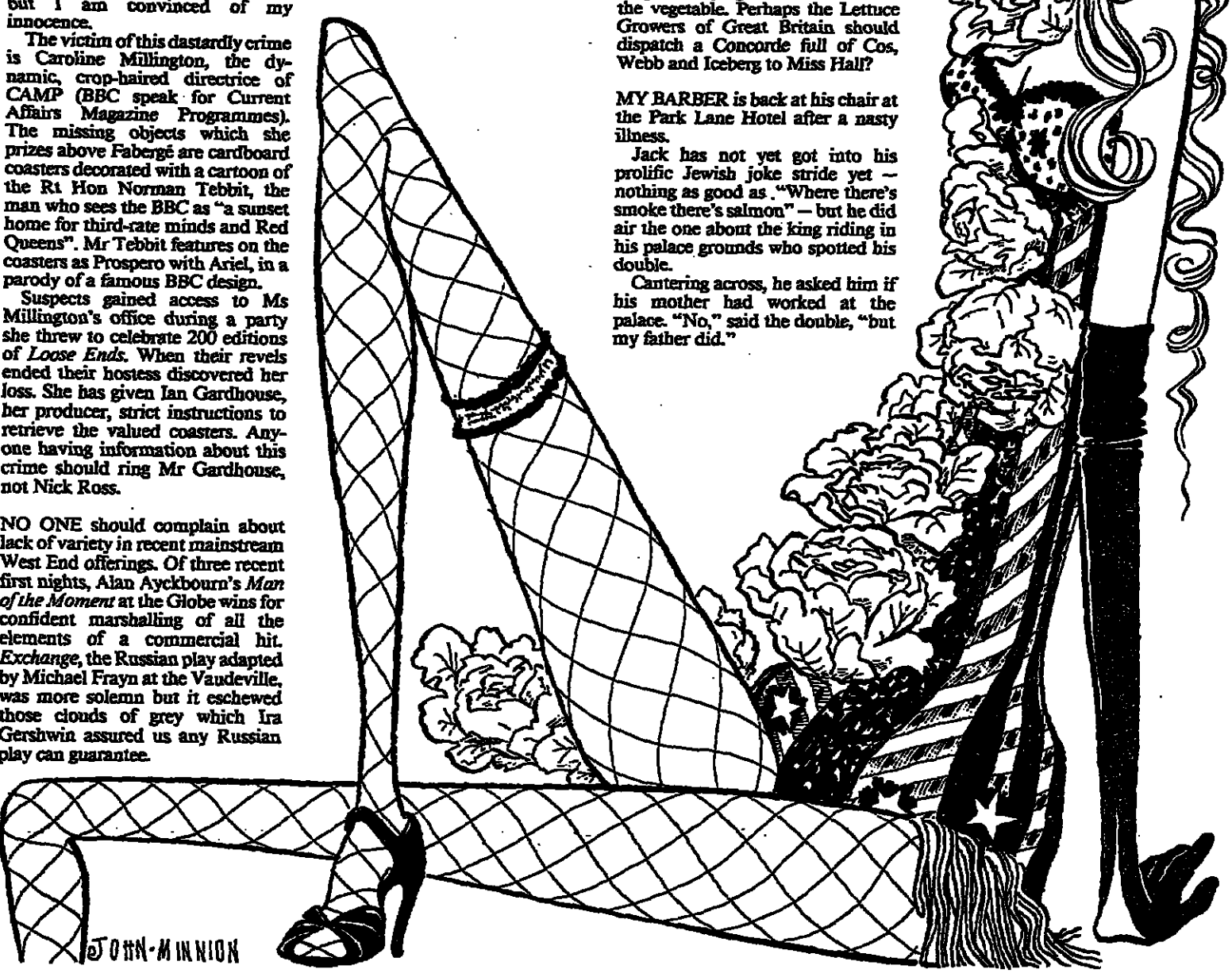
Milton Shulman said he spent two weeks with Marilyn Monroe when she was filming *Bus Stop* in Phoenix, Arizona. She spent most of the time on the phone to Arthur Miller, but Shulman had the ear of her press agent.

At one point the president of the Lettuce Growers of America wanted publicly to present Monroe with a crate of lettuce to celebrate an anniversary. When the publicist turned him down, the president suggested flying in a DC10 full of the vegetable. Perhaps the Lettuce Growers of Great Britain should dispatch a Concorde full of Cos, Webb and Iceberg to Miss Hall?

MY BARBER is back at his chair at the Park Lane Hotel after a nasty illness.

Jack has not yet got into his prolific Jewish joke stride yet — nothing as good as "Where there's smoke there's a salmon" — but he did air the one about the king riding in his palace grounds who spotted his double.

Cantering across, he asked him if his mother had worked at the palace. "No," said the double, "but my father did."



DAVID GOWER

If I were...

If I were Viv Richards, the West Indies cricket captain, I would not be too despondent, despite the fact that my much fancied team has just been on completely the wrong end of the First Test contest with England.

Of course, I would be aware that the local fans were none too impressed with our performance, particularly after our whitewash of the same opponents last time they were here. In the Caribbean we prefer to call it a blackwash.

Well, there won't be one of those this time. But I don't think anyone should make too much of this unexpected defeat. I still have a strong side and we are confident of resuming normal service long before the series is over. I might dwell for a moment on the fact that four members of this new England team were not born in the country they now represent. Batsmen Allan Lamb and Robin Smith come from South Africa, and two of their successful bowlers, Devon Malcolm and Gladstone Small, actually have their origins in the West Indies, in Jamaica and Barbados.

In recent years it is we West Indians who have been



... Viv Richards

praised for the way we prepare for matches through fitness and practice. Now I notice the English are proving the worth of these same qualities. I would remind my team of the desirability of setting the standard again immediately.

In the next breath I might slip it to Malcolm Marshall that he looked a little tired and under-prepared in Jamaica, not because I believe it, but because it might make him just that bit angrier for the next contest.

Before that next Test, I might even have a proper net practice myself instead of just taking Dennis, the Australian physiotherapist, on to the edge of the field for a gentle knock up, like a First World War lieutenant and his batman making light of the latest enemy offensive.

On second thoughts, I might decide against setting this energetic example to the troops. With my 109 Test matches, the best part of 8,000 Test runs and an average of 51 runs a match, I might stick with whatever makes me happy. And I can't wait to prove the point on my next visit to the crease.

The next Test match is to be played on about the best batting wicket in the Caribbean. Just to show I was taking things a little seriously, I might even consider raising myself in the batting order, from number six which seems to be the compulsory position for senior West Indies captains.

One thing is certain: no one will find me downhearted. That is not what being a West Indian has taught me to be. My 38th birthday is next week on the day of the fourth one-day international. I intend to celebrate that day with a win, weather permitting, and set the scene for the start of the Test match three days later.

What is more, if that nice Mr Gower, who used to lose all those Tests to me, has managed to lay his hands on a bottle of Bollinger somewhere, that might help cheer me up as well.

CAMPUS

Stand up for the union

Birmingham students have voted to back the NUS, says Kerry Bretherton

All I'm saying is the N.U.S. were around in 1984 and Orwell wasn't.



GED.

puts it in the same category as that other revolutionary and reactionary organization, the European Community. In the dim and distant days of my childhood, a referendum was held to discuss whether this country should join the EC. I've never heard anyone seriously suggest that only those who wanted Britain to join the EC should become members. People accept that the benefits of membership are gained by the country and it is simply not practical for me to be a member of the EC and you not to be a member. I could not say to a student at Birmingham University that I

would only help them with an academic appeal if they were a member of the NUS. The critics of the NUS ought to take a look at the real world and work on constructive suggestions for improving the student welfare network.

Of course, there are times when the NUS is its own worst enemy. Fortunately, it is finally realizing the importance of public relations. The National Fun Run it is organizing in aid of Oxfam projects in Southern Africa is to be held on the Birmingham University campus on March 11. This event will show the public that student unions

don't just do campaigning work. The NUS needs more members like Cosmo Hawkes, organizer of this event.

The next conference, at Easter, will elect a new national executive. Fortunately, for the first time in many years a strong group of independents is challenging for many of the key positions, including president. If public perceptions of the NUS are to improve and the union is to maintain its credibility, then students must recognize that student wings of national political parties are dated and redundant. A Labour president negotiating with a Conservative government or a Conservative president negotiating with a Labour government doesn't seem very logical. An independent would realistically be able to speak on behalf of all students, and would crush those arguments that suggest NUS is too party politicized. I favour Cosmo Hawkes for the next president of the NUS and I hope our union will be run by independents.

Students at Birmingham University have expressed their overwhelming support for the NUS and I hope their faith is rewarded.

● The author is president of the Birmingham University Guild of Students.

Lesson in humility

This time last year I bought a copy of Yeats's collected poems and set myself the task of reading at least six or seven poems a day.

This wasn't so much the New Year resolution of a would-be intellectual, as that of a terrified finalist. October found me in the postgraduate world of TEFL (Teaching English as a Foreign Language) standing before a room of Italian men aged between 18 and 40. And if this had been my dream six or seven years ago, it certainly wasn't any more.

Perhaps the greatest lesson to be learned from living in a country where you don't speak the language is that without the control of that potency you are very small indeed. I was, without doubt, the smallest

person in Asti, and I was undergoing one enormous lesson in humility.

Asti is a provincial town in the wine-growing region of Piedmont, northern Italy. I hadn't been there long before I became aware of the mutability of the word "provincial". From England, it had meant truly "Italian", small and friendly, a real community — everything it needed to be for me to forgive it for not being Florence, Venice or Rome.

But once installed, I woke up to find that most of the charm had gone. "Provincial" meant claustrophobic, proud, insular, and not a little sus-

picious of outsiders. "There is a saying," Paolo said, "that the Piedmontese have a false smile. You mustn't take offence; they are suspicious of their neighbours, let alone a foreigner."

My students were intrigued. "You had the whole of Italy before you," they said, "and you chose Asti. Why?" Why, indeed?

The cold weather brought out the fur coats and made the beggars with empty boxes more obvious. Friday's conversation group was time for me to air my disgust. What was the social security system in Italy? Were people in-

terested in charitable organizations? Would they say that Italians were materialistic? Who was this angry Englishwoman with a perpetual bee in her bonnet?

On my way to visit a friend in Ivrea, I found an English newspaper. One sentence in particular stood out. The Government urged the privatization of all old people's homes, and "clients" must pay for the services they receive. Things in England were equally grim. It was a relief to admit as much. I brought in articles to show my conversation group. They were not surprised; but next time, could I please find a copy of *The Sun*?

Bridget Frost

● The author is a graduate from Cambridge University.

THE NEW CALLANETICS

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30 DAY
FITNESS

PROGRAMME

EATING OUT

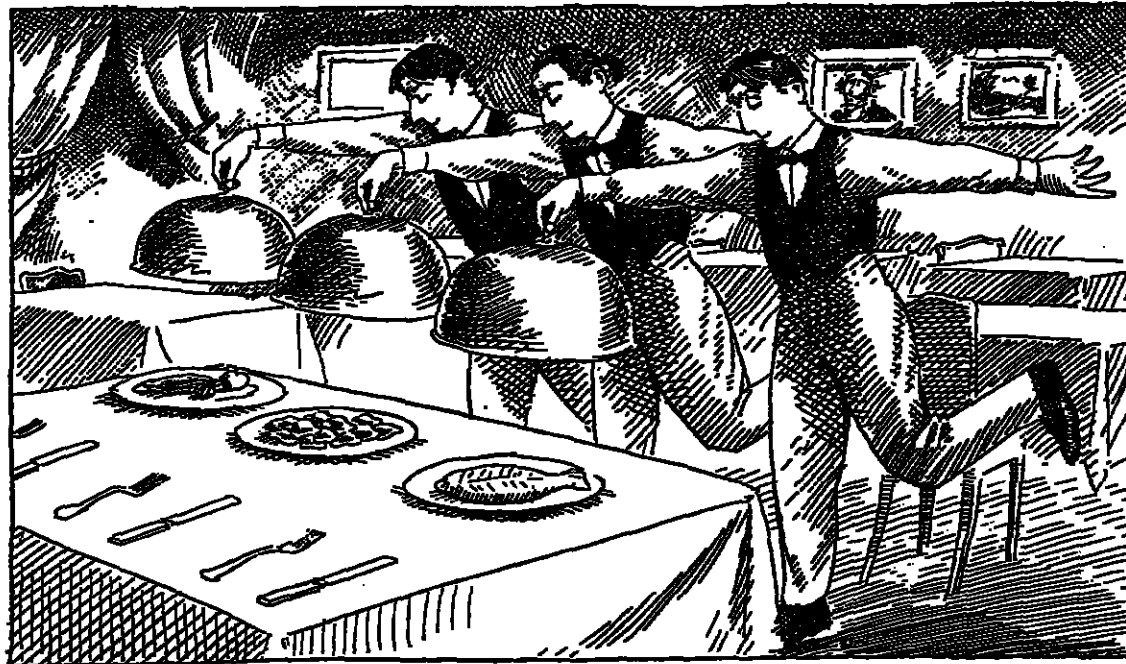
Pomp and pomposity

Jonathan Meades dines on ceremony
and witnesses the antiquated ritual
of the tripartite synchronized dome lift

In order, no doubt, to remind its customers that it is named after the local and tubercular poet (and not, say, after Don "Scallywag" Keats, metal broker of Tottenham Hale), Keats has loaded its interior with shelves of books. Very tasteful. A restaurant named after Don could do itself out with lumps of sump, tales of swarf, swags of chain. But John demands sensitive treatment. So there are not only books but portraits (why Gladstone?), terracotta busts, prints, etc. The dining-rooms are high ceilings and their tongue and groove walls are painted in crackle-effect — an undercoat of brick red applied to it a coat of dirty cream into which is mixed an agent that makes it dry so quickly it does not fully cover the undercoat. The result appears ancient, peeling, weathered paint or the site of a fire. There is also a load of highly patterned carpet and a few furlongs of curtain tied by thick, tassled dressing gown cord. It's rather dim, lit only by lights above each portrait. The sum of all this is a precious and faintly kitsch rendering of a country house library, a discreet set for a telly programme about connoisseurship, fine bindings and arty arcana. It does not make for a particularly relaxed atmosphere. Although the tables are well spaced, people tend to whisper; the illusion of a library (or something other than a restaurant) is so potent that punters probably begin to believe that they are dining in such a room and behave accordingly. This is abetted by the service, which is the far side of formal. The synchronized lifting of domes from dishes is a bore and should be eschewed. So, indeed, should domes; they had a function to fulfil when kitchens were separated from dining-rooms by draughty corridors, but in a modern restaurant (albeit one which seeks to recreate an ersatz past) they are embarrassing encumbrances. Similarly the practice of not allowing diners to pour their own wine is a genteel anachronism that should be quashed. There is a difference between serving staff refilling empty glasses from a bottle on the table and the ritual fetching of a bottle from halfway across the dining-room to pour therefrom only a finger of wine. I doubt if the ceremony surrounding dinner at

Keats is much good for the nerves of either punters or staff. And it certainly does little to promote appreciation of the fine and confident cooking. Equally, the ceremony seems to militate against utility: one of the people I was dining with was brought cheese as his main course. Quite what occasioned this aberration is a puzzle. What it meant was that all our main courses were taken back to the kitchen so that the staff would not be denied the chance of a tripartite synchronized dome lift. The *matinée* was energetically apologetic about this both at the time and after we had finished, when he said: "Can I please you with something — a Cognac, perhaps..." The very location — *Can I please you* — seems indicative of the problem this place has in reaching an accord with its customers. In speech, as in behaviour, the colloquial has an easing effect, the strenuously formal has the opposite.

This sort of service is a courteous version of that which is to be experienced in many hotels. The cooking has tendencies in that direction, too. It is elaborate, and most of the dishes would fail in the hands of a lesser chef because of the sheer number of components. But the fellow here has a sure touch and a sound tongue. With one exception the dishes were balanced and well flavoured and possessed a definite edge. The exception was raviolis filled with celeriac and parsley — good in themselves but rather spoiled by a sauce whose syrupy texture overcame the alleged flavour of truffles. Otherwise the cooking was consistently pleasing. Steamed sole is sauced with red caviar and blackish caviar and makes one see the point of what is a persistently over-rated fish. Wild mushrooms are fried with artichoke heart and accompanied by a tomato vinaigrette. Beef fillet is served with a baby turnip, a potato latke and shallot that has been steeped in red wine. Skate comes with a verdant crust of herbs and a red wine sauce. Main courses are served with sideplates of boring vegetables. A sort of brandy snap collar is filled with berries and two sauces, a yellow one and a red one, vanilla and raspberry, maybe. Meagre portions of cheese are accompanied by an aromatically dressed salad.



This kind of cooking is decidedly not in the van of fashion; indeed, it is now getting to be the exception rather than the rule it was five or so years ago. Even when there were numerous chefs essaying this idiom there were not that many that got it so right as Herbert Berger does here.

No need to reiterate that the place is not to my taste, but that prejudice doesn't blind me to the likelihood that devotes of pomp and formality will consider Keats to be a leader in its field. By any standards the cooking is good, and by the standards of "special occasion" restaurants it is outstanding. Peripheral items are notable, too — nice walnut bread, well-confected sweets with coffee. There are no obvious bargains on a sound wine list. With half a bottle of Pouilly and a decent bottle of Bandol, the bill for three was £123. Two will pay about £80.

Heddon Street is a cul-de-sac off Regent's Street. It is sociable with

KEATS
★★★★★
3a Downshire Hill, London NW3 (01-435 1469/3644)
Lunch and dinner Tues to Sat. £20.
Major cards.

COPPER CHIMNEY
★★★★★
13 Heddon Street, London W1 (01-435 2004)
Lunch and dinner Mon to Sat. £20.
Major cards.

a poet of a different sort to John Keats, perhaps no poet at all — David Bowie. It was here that Mr Bowie, wearing an all-in-one quilted body stocking, was, 18 years ago, photographed for the cover of his *Ziggy Stardust* record. After that momentous night, Heddon Street slipped back into an obscurity from which the Copper Chimney has failed to deliver it. If restaurants succeeded on cooking alone, the Copper Chimney would be celebrated and Heddon Street with it; but, famously, they aren't. The importance of extra-gastronomic factors is often regrettable. In the case of the Copper Chimney they are regrettable, but understandable. First, its site is unpromising — Heddon Street does not attract Heddon fans the way Abbey Road attracts Beatles fans; there is no casual trade, not that it is the sort of restaurant which would rely on casual trade. Second, it is windowless, large and curiously dispiriting. Third, the service is offhand to the point of insolence; without speaking, the manager gestured that we should sit down in the bar area; he then sloped off and shrugged when I called after him asking for a drink. He has clearly chosen a staff in his own image. Ten minutes to get a drink despite gesturing, calling to waiters, going over to them and so on. Another 10 minutes while a cocktail operative knocked up two horrors that tasted like liquorice. Then a curt order to get to the table which, like every other table, felt horribly exposed. A modicum of

thought has been expended on applied decoration — grossly enlarged photos from Raj albums, "stone-effect" pillars; no thought has been expended on the layout of the place. A further protracted wait, this one alleviated by the comedy of the menu: "The *dhadda* is an eating place typically found on the highways of the Punjab and favoured by burly truck drivers."

Now, I may not know much about burly truck drivers in the Punjab, but I'm pretty certain that at their truckstops they don't get cooking of the standard of the Copper Chimney. On the other hand, they probably get what they order rather more quickly. Two hours over a two-course meal is an hour and a bit too long, even if the food is good. From the truckstop part of the menu came a biscuit-like savoury with chutney and shredded wheat. Fine, but you get the same in any subcontinental vegetarian cafe for a quarter of the price. The other dishes would not be found in any cafe, and only a very few other restaurants could match the standard of this place's chilli-infused fish bouillon or its tandoori fish or a creamy, musky, deep-flavoured dal of black beans. The vindaloo here is certainly a throat ripper, but it probably bears more resemblance to the Goanese vinegar-powered original than most you'll find. There's also a tasty stew of okra and chickpeas, which elevates the former veg to unusual heights. With two lagers, two lassis and no tip, the bill for two was £45.10.

DIRECTORY

Stars — up to a maximum of 10 — are for cooking rather than swags and chandeliers. Prices are for a three-course meal for two. They include an aperitif and modest wine in the case of French places, tea in the case of oriental ones and so on. Prices change; they usually go up. Dishes also may have changed — they are given only as an indication of the establishment's repertoire. I accept no responsibility for disappointments and claim no credit for happy surprises. Always phone first. J.M.

GREAT PORTLAND STREET

Cheer Nio
35 Great Portland Street, London W1 (01-436 8946)
★★★★★
Nico Laceria's most potent restaurant is the setting for what may be his finest cooking yet. The invention is manifest, the execution is flawless, the taste is sure, the conviction is total. Every dish is composed of numerous complementary flavours, generally served and altogether splendid. Duck confit with cap sauce and two kinds of potato; *tournedos Rossini* with a cake of celeriac that has been cooked with smoked pork to enhance its flavour; mulet with a lively vinaigrette; lamb with couscous; fantastical sweets in blinding colours. The wines are pricey and predictable. A great restaurant and one which leads as well as delights. £120.

Ninjab
244 Great Portland Street, London W1 (01-585 4687)
★★★★★
Japanese businessman's basement eatery, whose cooking hits some real heights. Beef and potato stew, deliciously light dumplings, minced shrewd chicken. £20.

AMERICAN

Ed's Easy Diner
16 High Street, Hampstead, London NW3 (01-431 1958)
★★★
The phone number gets it right. This is a pastiche of anywhere in America. It is 1958 seen through the eyes of a video maker or ad director — chrome, plastic and Elvis. The burgers and milkshakes are all right but, no doubt, it is the feel rather than the food that is of moment. Ideal for 40-year-olds reliving their fantasy childhood. £20. There are also branches in Old Compton Street, W1 and King's Road, SW3.

Sticky Fingers
Troy Court, Phillimore Gardens, London W8 (01-938 5338)
★★★★★
Bill Wyman's restaurant is a shrine to himself and to the rest of the Rolling Stones — photos, news clippings, gold discs, guitars; there's nothing that can't be put in a frame. It's a loud and pretty frantic place: part burger joint, part spare-ribs diner, part Cajun steak. By the standards of such gastronomic subcultures it's not too bad at all. £40 plus.

Columbus
8 Egerton Gardens Mews, London SW3 (01-585 8267)
★★★★★
Stylish, adobe-like basement serving rather questionable Californian dishes (chicken, tandoori pizza, terrine lasagne, pasta with black bean sauce) and one or two good French ones such as steak with artichokes and lamb rack. £25-28.

Kenny's
170 Euston Road, London NW3 (01-435 6572)
★★★★★
Cajun restaurant with loud Cajun music. Good cocktails, good beers, and some good cooking. The ubiquitous better-tastes-like-corn chips from a packet, most dishes vary in the spicing, most dishes taste pretty much the same, i.e., hot and aggressive. £20.

GLOUCESTERSHIRE

Flynn's
3 Fountain Street, Nailsworth, (01295 5587)
★★★★★
A pretty unpromising setting — the first floor of a dreary office building in a rather miserable village. And the place itself is hardly remarkable. But the cooking is freshly thought-out, accomplished and generous. Fish tends to be a bit out of two above the meat: squid with ginger sauce, rabbit with capers and mushrooms, monkfish with a warm vinaigrette. The puddings are quite nice, too. £25-30.

Redmond's at Malvern View
Cleve Hill, nr Cheltenham (0246 267 2017)
★★★★★
Redmond Hayward made his name as a chef at a restaurant in Cheltenham. He and his wife have now taken over a modest hotel outside the town on the Cotswold escarpment. The views are terrific and so is the cooking — it is assured, restrained, original and delicious. State-fused with ginger and lime butter sauce, beef fillet with garlic purée and parsley and mushroom sauce, chicken with vanilla and orange, goat's cheese raviol with tomato and garlic, hot bananas soufflé, lemon tart with honey sauce. Commendable cheeses, unusual wines from the Cotswolds. The views are terrific and so is the cooking — it is assured, restrained, original and delicious. State-fused with ginger and lime butter sauce, beef fillet with garlic purée and parsley and mushroom sauce, chicken with vanilla and orange, goat's cheese raviol with tomato and garlic, hot bananas soufflé, lemon tart with honey sauce. Commendable cheeses, unusual wines from the Cotswolds. 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THE TIMES COOK

Frances Bissell uses the invigorating flavours of dandelions and nettles to prepare cleansing tonics that will spring you into the next season

Taste of the wild side

Until relatively recently, early spring was always seen as a time not only for giving the house a thorough spring-clean, but for giving the body a spring-clean, too. Tonics for the hair, the skin, the blood and the digestive system were made up in the still room or the kitchen to be consumed by the members of the household with varying degrees of effectiveness.

No wonder such potions were considered necessary. As well as the bland Lenten diet, there was very little variety or availability of fresh foods, and the only fish and meat available had quite likely been heavily salted to preserve it. We need no such tonics today, with the richly varied diet of fresh meat and fish, abundance of vitamin-rich fruit and vegetables for eating raw or cooked, not to mention all the exotic pulses, pastas, cereals, herbs and spices that are available to us. Still, we like to eat heavier, more comforting food in winter, and probably far more meat and fat than we need. For today's recipes, I have taken some of those tonic ideas and used them in ways we can enjoy now.

A country walk might yield some young dandelion leaves and nettles. Both of these have a marvellously invigorating flavour, with a real taste of the wild. Pick well away from roadsides, however, to ensure that your booty has not been drenched in petrol fumes.

If you decide on nettles, pick only the tender top-most shoot and leaves. The coarse lower leaves and the stalk contain toxins. Use gloves to avoid being stung, but if you do inadvertently get caught, remember that rubbing with a dock leaf is an antidote, and these usually grow nearby. Rubbing with sage or rosemary leaves is also said to relieve nettle rash. As well as nettle soup, I have come across other recipes for this essentially rustic ingredient. In Burgundy, snails are served with a rich green nettle ragout by one of the region's top chefs. In Liguria, a light ravioli is stuffed with a purée of nettles mixed with ricotta and pine nuts.

I have included a pasta recipe today, a rather special dish suitable for the main course of a dinner party that carnivores and vegetarians alike will enjoy. If you are cooking it for vegetarians, you will need to take care with the cheeses you use and look for those containing vegetarian rennet rather than the usual rennet derived from animal sources. Traditional cheese-making on farms in Britain has produced a wealth of excellent and interesting

cheeses, many of them suitable for vegetarians. Ewes' cheese and goats' cheese, as well as cows' milk cheese, are available in a range of textures and fat contents — low, medium and full-fat, pressed and unpressed, cheeses, hard, semi-hard and soft, many of them made with vegetarian rennet. The best guide to help you track down these very special cheeses is a booklet called "On-Farm Cheese Makers of England and Wales". It is available from Alistair Jackson, Specialist Markets Department, MMR, Thames Ditton, Surrey KT17 0EL. Enclose a cheque for £7.50 made payable to Milk Marketing Board. This 80-page guide also includes details of mail-order and farm shops, as well as a section on handling and storing cheese. Readers in Scotland should contact the Scottish Milk Marketing Board, Underwood Road, Paisley, Ayrshire PA3 1JT.

Back to the theme of spring tonics, rich creamy desserts and hot steamy puddings seem quite out of place. A large bowl of sliced kiwi fruit with a squeeze of fresh orange juice would be a light and refreshing finish to an early spring meal. If you chill the fruit and prepare it just before serving, it will still be bursting with vitamins. One kiwi fruit contains more than the adult's recommended daily allowance of vitamin C. Once they are soft and ripe, I dislike that slightly opulent, corrupt flavour, so I always use them while they are still firm and tart.

Spring soup
(Serves 4 to 6)
2 leeks, white part only
2 celery stalks
1/2 lb (230g) rhubarb
1 bay leaf
4 cloves
1 1/2 pt (850ml) 1.15l stock
salt
white pepper
pinch of powdered mace
chopped parsley

Note: If you use vegetable stock in this and the following recipe, they make dishes that vegetarians will enjoy.

Trim the outer leaves from the leeks, and slice them with the celery and rhubarb. Rinse thoroughly and drain. Put them in a saucepan with the bay leaf, cloves and stock. Bring to the boil, and then process, blend or rub through

a sieve into a clean saucepan. Bring back to the boil, season to taste, and pour into soup bowls. Sprinkle with parsley and serve.

To make a more substantial soup add a potato to the rest of the vegetables. The soup can be enriched by stirring in cream before serving, but that rather defeats the purpose of the sharp cleansing flavour of the rhubarb.

Nettle and barley soup
(Serves 6 to 8)
1 1/2 pt (850ml) to 1.15l stock
2oz (60g) pearl barley
sprig of sage
1 bay leaf
3oz (85g) fresh young nettle tops
salt
pepper

Bring the stock to the boil, and throw in the barley and herbs. Lower the heat, and simmer until the barley is tender. Remove the herbs. Roughly chop the nettles, and put in the pot. Bring to the boil, simmer for two to three minutes, season to taste, and serve immediately.

Spinach and dandelion salad
(Serves 4 to 6)



3oz (85g) smoked streaky bacon
1/2 lb (230g) fresh young spinach leaves
a few handfuls of fresh young dandelion leaves
2 spring onions or 1tbsp chopped chives
1tbsp sherry vinegar
salt
pepper

Remove the rind, and cut the bacon into matchsticks. Put in a small heavy frying pan, and cook gently until the fat is rendered. Meanwhile, quickly wash the greens, and shake or towel them dry. Tear the spinach into manageable pieces if necessary. Slice the spring onions, and put all the greens in a salad bowl. Raise the heat under the bacon to crisp it off, and pour fat and bacon over the salad, and turn the leaves in it to coat them well. Add sherry vinegar, salt and pepper, and turn the salad again before serving.

Use a cheese containing vegetable rennet to make this lasagna suitable for vegetarians. The sauces can be made the day before required. If it is more convenient, the lasagna can be assembled two to three hours in advance and refrigerated until you are ready to bake it. It is worth making plenty of tomato sauce, as any surplus can be kept for another day.

Vegetable lasagna
(Serves 4 to 6)
Tomato sauce
3 to 4 cloves garlic (optional)
1 onion
2 carrots
2 celery stalks
1 leek, white part only
2oz (60g) fennel, if available
2-tbsp olive oil
2 large (900g) cans peeled plum tomatoes
2 bay leaves
2 to 3 parsley stalks
sprig of thyme
sprig of sage or rosemary
salt
pepper

Peel and chop the vegetables, and sweat in the olive oil until the onion is just beginning to colour. Add the tomatoes and herbs, and cook without covering for two to three hours on a very low heat. Allow to cool slightly before blending in a food processor or blender, or simply rub through a sieve. Season to taste.

Béchamel sauce:
2oz (60g) butter
2oz (60g) flour
1 1/2 pt (850ml) boiling milk
salt
pepper
pinch nutmeg

Put the butter in a heavy pan, and melt over a low heat. Stir in the flour until you have a smooth paste. Do not allow the flour to colour. Pour on a little of the milk and stir until smooth, then gradually add the rest, stirring continuously to avoid any lumps forming. When smooth, cook gently for eight to 10 minutes, stirring from time to time. Cool, cover and refrigerate until required.

Lasagna
1lb (450g) aubergines
1 1/2 lb (680g) courgettes
1/2 lb (230g) baby leeks
1lb (450g) lasagna
3tbsp olive oil
6oz (170g) mozzarella, diced
6oz (170g) ricotta, diced
3oz (85g) Parmesan or other hard cheese, grated

Slice the aubergines 1/4 in (0.5cm) thick, having removed the stalk end. Slice off the ends of the courgettes, and trim and wash the leeks. Bring a large pan of water to the boil, lightly salted or not, as you prefer, and put in the aubergines first. After two to three minutes, put in the rest of the vegetables and leeks and boil for a further two minutes. Lift out the vegetables with a slotted spoon or similar utensil, put them in a colander, and refresh under cold water to stop them cooking any further. Put to dry on layers of paper towels. Cook the lasagna sheets according to the instructions on the packet, a few sheets at a time, if necessary, in the same saucepan of water in which you cooked the vegetables. If using freshly-made lasagna, that is still soft and supple, cook for two minutes only. Lay the cooked lasagna sheets on a clean tea towel.

Liberally oil a square or rectangular oven-proof dish of dimensions that will comfortably hold all the ingredients. Spread a little béchamel on the bottom, and cover with a layer of lasagna. Spread with tomato sauce, and lay the leeks on top with a little ricotta and mozzarella. Spoon on a little more béchamel, top with another layer of lasagna, and so on, finishing with sheets of lasagna topped with the rest of the béchamel sauce. Sprinkle with the grated cheese, and bake for about 50 to 60 minutes at 180°C/350°F, gas mark 4, turning the heat up for the last 10 minutes, if necessary, to brown the top. Serve very hot.

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DRINK

Stacks of sparkle and spring

Is there an alternative to champagne? Jane MacQuitty takes another look at méthode champenoise wines and checks out the best of the bargain buys for March

When is champagne not champagne? When it is Charles de Fère méthode champenoise fizz. I first tasted these wines, produced just outside the official border of the Champagne district, several years ago; the rosé was awful and the brut none too thrilling. Writers, merchants and drinkers have since stepped up their search for good, inexpensive méthode champenoise alternatives to champagne. Rarely are they successful. It is time to look again at the Charles de Fère range.

The rosé is still grim. Its weird, cheesy-beefy scent and taste are not worth the £5.66 asked by Berkman Wine Cellars, 12 Brewery Road, London N7. Supermarkets' own-label pink champagnes may cost £10 a bottle and the cheapest grandes marques are £14 plus, but half-price rosé alternatives need to have at least half the finesse and flavour of the real thing, and this one fails miserably. However, the Charles de Fère Blanc de Blancs Brut Réserve (£5.54) is a useful upper-class sparkler with some breeding and style. Its light, fresh, flowery-musky scent and taste do not make it champagne, though. It reminded me of one of the better quality Blanquette de Limoux sparklers, which is logical as its chief component is Roussillon and Limoux's Mauzac grape.

The jewel in the crown of Jean-Louis Denois, who de-camped to Fère-en-Tardenois to make non-champagne sparklers in 1979 and whose family still produces champagne, is his amazing Tradition Brut. I would not like to meet this bubbly's like, biscuity, champagne-like scent and equally full, bouncy palate in a blind tasting; it smells and tastes like the real thing, partly because of its mix of Chardonnay and Pinot Noir grapes, but also because of Denois's expertise. This is one of the finest champagne taste-alikes I have come across, and at £6.54 is about a third of the price of the cheapest own-label champagnes.

March, despite its occasional warm, sunny days, is still traditionally a red wine month, and there is plenty to choose from. One of the most useful trade tastings recently was the French wine co-operatives' tasting. These wines have improved over the past five years. And those from the Cave du Haut Poitou, a southern Loire satellite, are a shining example of new techniques and squeaky-clean wine-making methods. Haut Poitou's Sancerre-like Sauvignon and delicate Chardonnay are well-known but I had not tasted the Gamay before. The '89 vintage of this wine is a stunner. I

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Wales pack. Forget your bank balance and splash out on this bottle (£8.99).

Apart from Australian bin-champ, Oodbins is this month concentrating on the regional wines of France with a free tasting of half a dozen of these wines on March 17 and 24. Good bottles include the impressive, velvety, oriental spice of the '87 Mas de Daumas Gassac (£8.99) which I wrote about recently, plus the splendid '88 Château Bellevue La Forêt Côtes du Frontonnais in its 'prestige' bottling (£5.99). The prestige version of this red wine is aged in oak, and it shows. I enjoyed its wonderful, deep, rich, exotic, spicy-herbaceous style enfolded in lots of rich, ripe southern French fruit. Besides claiming your tasting sample of these two, try the excellent

new vintage of Oodbins's '89 Domaine de Saint-Lannes, a Vin de Pays des Côtes de Gascogne (£2.99) with exhilarating, crisp, zesty, flowery-lemmony fruit that make it a good all-purpose March white wine.

With warmer days hopefully ahead, think about laying in stocks of good, ordinary white wines to start the spring. Sainsbury is worth visiting this month to purchase several bottles of its fresh, crisp, apple, own-label, non-vintage Alsace Pinot Blanc. This wine comes from the Bannwilsh co-operative and its 13 per cent alcohol and good, clean bite and fruit make it a sound March purchase (£3.15), or take advantage of the multi-buy scheme that gives you a £1 discount if you buy three bottles.

WINE BUYS

© 1988 Cocks Hawks Bay Chardonnay, Thresher, £4.99 New Zealand Chardonnay occasionally gets overlooked by wine drinkers, who rave about this country's Sauvignon but tend to forget its other wines. Cocks has always had a good Chardonnay in its range, and this buttercup-gold, big, buttery wine has lots of spicy new oak on the palate. © 1987 Châteauneuf-de-Pape, Celler des Princes, Thresher, £5.99 This classy Châteauneuf is on promotion this month at

Thresher along with the Cocks Chardonnay. This pale, garnet red wine has a fine, warm, spicy style, with enough fruit on the palate to make it a very enjoyable mouthful. © 1986 Saint-Joseph, Cave de Saint-Désir, Waitrose, £5.45 Waitrose has always offered some good red wines from the Rhône and this is no exception. A gold medal-winner at Mâcon and rightly so, the robust, rich, chunky black-pepper spice and fruit of this wine is a delight.

FOOD

Robin Young tries the convenient approach to vegetarianism

There was a time when vegetarians were regarded as more difficult dinner guests than even, say, bookmakers, estate agents or vicars. Hostesses exchanged tales of their efforts at entertaining vegetarians as if they were somehow akin to slipping the neighbours' Rottweiler tibbits through the fence; families recoiled in horror when told that a prospective son or daughter-in-law had abjured the pleasures of the flesh; and the vegetarians themselves grew tired of saying "No, really, cook what you would normally have yourselves and give us the vegetables".

It has all changed. We are all vegetarians now — or can be if we wish.

I have just completed three weeks' worth of eating a vegetarian diet, and I have not strained my culinary ingenuity once. In fact, I have not really cooked anything: merely microwaved or heated it in an oven, following instructions on the packets.

Vegetarians, I admit, could be tricky — but vegetarians? No problem.

There are now reckoned to be at least 1.5 million people in Britain who eat no meat. The number is growing, though no one is sure how fast. The militant Vegetarian Society has doubled its membership (to 16,000) in the past few years, but they are only the publicity demonstrative tip of an iceberg.

In surveys, as many as one in three people say they are now aiming to eat less meat. The evidence suggests that about three million of them are actually managing it. Six per cent of the population is expected to become vegetarians in the next few years.

That, though, is not really the point. Vegetarian food is available for all — and appreciated at some time or other by almost everybody. During the wartime rationing of my childhood, my most eagerly awaited savoury treat was a nut cutlet — my equivalent of the present day hamburger.

Cranks, the leading name in vegetarian wholefood for nearly 30 years, has recently opened a take-away in the Broadgate development near Liverpool Street in the heartland of the City of London. It reckons that here, as in its other branches, more than 90 per cent of the customers are not, so to speak, full-blooded vegetarians. Vegetarian food manufacturers such as Granose and the health food

Meaty without the flesh

shops tell the same story: at least three quarters of the people buying vegetarian products are not fully conforming vegetarians.

Such statistics have influenced the supermarkets. Where vegetarians were inconvenient, now there are chiller cabinets full of convenience foods prepared with them in mind.

How varied and tempting those convenience foods are, though, depends which supermarket you shop in. For my tests the Co-op could only come up with five vegetarian items (quiches, pizzas and pasties — none of which I relished), though more vegetarian dishes are being introduced this month and next. Asda produced an unexciting cauliflower *au gratin*, a moderate vegetable chili, and a passable vegetable curry and Indian pilau rice, about the standard (and price) of my local Indian take-away. Vegetable lasagne, strangely, was declared "not suitable".

The other back-markers were Safeway, who could only offer a basic vegetarian repertoire of cauliflower cheese, vegetable lasagne, vegetable chili and *ratatouille*. The cheese was imperceptible, the lasagne gross, the chili heavy on red kidney beans, and the *ratatouille* seriously distasteful. Beware the *ratatouille*, whose principal ingredient, listed first in the fine print, is water, which should only be there as a component of the vegetables. It means excessive reliance on puree and thickener, and the result is not at all nice.

Tesco runs to 11 vegetarian recipe dishes, with broccoli mornay as a variant on the almost inevitable cauliflower cheese. I tried the vegetable chili (much like the others already mentioned), a carrot and onion crumble with crumbed cheese and almond topping (rather dry and drab) and a couple of passable vegetable bakes. Best, though, were onion bhajias and vegetable samosas bought from the delicatessen counter. Sainsbury had a score of

ideas. Its vegetable chili with cracked wheat contained more tomatoes than red kidney beans and (at £1.39 for 350g to serve one) was the most civilized version of this dish that I tried. The *ratatouille* replaced water with tomato juice, to small advantage. I quite liked the vegetable moussaka and, if pressed, would not balk at passing friends a plate of Sainsbury's crispy crumbed mushrooms with garlic dip — at least not if there was plenty of wine about.

I was seriously disappointed, though, by Sainsbury's neeps and tatties, which was supposed to be a traditional Scottish dish topped with grated cheese. I wondered afterwards whether the cheese had been the whitish splotch adhering to the lid when I discarded it. Sainsbury's onion bhajia also proved large, floury and uninteresting.

The range at Marks & Spencer runs to at least 15 recipe dishes and an almost equal number of vegetarian snacks. Filled courgettes with tomato sauce and filled green peppers were the most likely products I encountered to convince vegetarians I had been cooking specially for them. St Michael's tends to blandness: the nut cutlets, sadly, are largely potato and rice, the only nut mentioned in the ingredients being almond. Similarly, I would have welcomed twice the amount of herbs in the vegetarian dumplings accompanying an otherwise good fresh vegetable casserole. Most successful were the vegetable crispbakes which I have bought since (dare I say it?) to set beside lamb cutlets.

Finally, though, my recommendation is that would-be vegetarians should visit Waitrose. I object strongly to the misleading name of the tagliatelle niccioise (no capers or anchovies, but creamy cheese sauce yet again) but it tasted all right. I also commend the neatly packed and well filled vegetable samosas, and enjoyed the vegetable shepherd's pie.

More importantly, Waitrose vegetable curry with pilau rice, and dal makhani and palak paneer which I coupled, rather unorthodoxly, with Thai-style lemon and lime rice provided my two tastiest and most memorable meals of the vegetarian experiment. If all vegetarian meals were as good, all God's creatures would be safe from me.

Clive Davis on vulgar sounds from a great man's mouth

I do not suppose that Albert Goldman was ever planning to write Miles Davis's biography. If by any remote chance he was, then he might as well forget it: Davis has done the job more thoroughly than any literary minger could have managed. As self-inflicted wounds go, his autobiography is a masterpiece. My only suggestion is that, given the relentless use of a certain 12-letter word, the title should have been *Miles: The M-word*.

On second thoughts, perhaps the book is some sort of grand hoax. Davis has always had a keen eye for the latest trends. Perhaps he realized that there is a huge audience for books that dwell on the sordid details of an artist's private life. If sex, drugs and rock 'n' roll are the most potent brew, jazz, cocaine, and more cocaine cannot be far behind.

As it happens, two of the most memorable jazz memoirs — Charles Mingus's *Beneath the Underdog* and Art and Laurie Pepper's *Straight Life* — both gave an unsavoury glimpse into the world of the modern jazz musician. Neither Mingus nor Pepper was a particularly cuddly man, but they left behind books which belong to the realms of literature.

Davis should have at least as many tales to tell. Whether or not you care for his recent work, he remains one of the most important figures in post-war jazz. In at the birth of bebop in the Forties, he re-emerged as the epitome of laid-back sophistication a decade later, before leading jazz, for better or worse, into its flirtation with the big money of rock music. While most jazz artists have burnt themselves out within a matter of years, he has been astute enough to move off in new directions whenever he sensed staleness setting in.

Jarring jazz notes

MILES
The Autobiography
By Miles Davis
With Quincy Troupe
Macmillan, £13.95

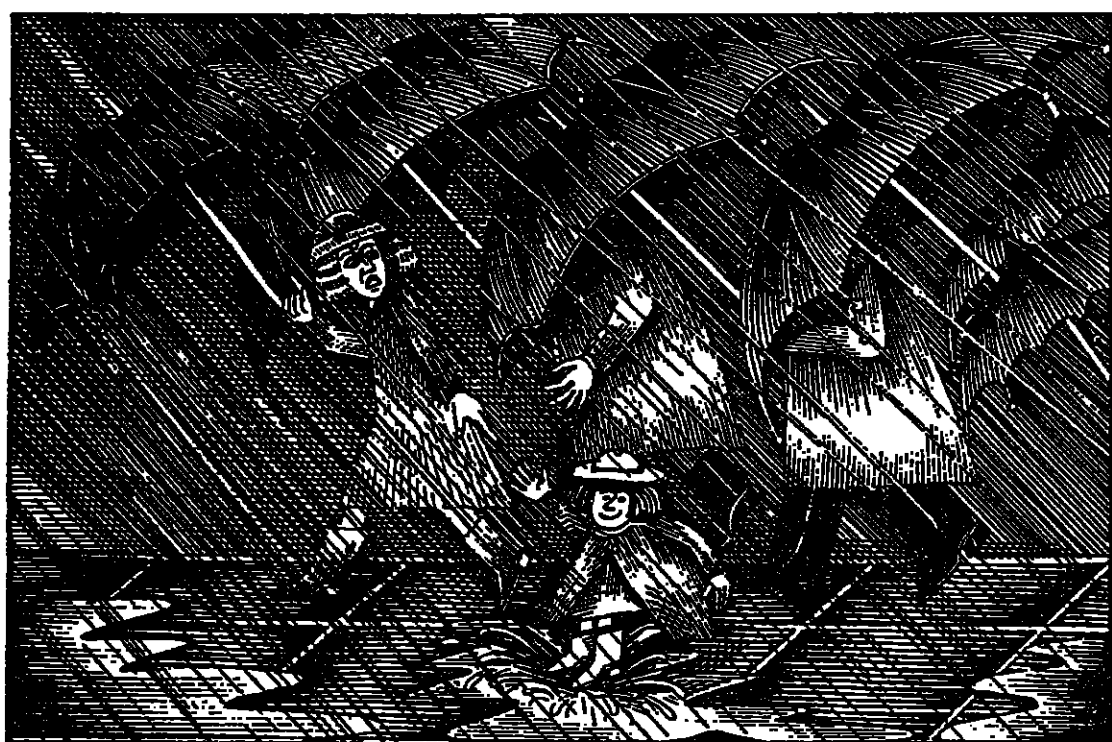
Despite all this, *Miles* turns out to be a dreary read. No doubt some parts will appeal to the hipsters who enjoyed leafing through the more lurid sections of the Warhol diaries. But I suspect even they will be bored after a while. Anyone interested in finding out more about Davis's music would do better to sit down with one or two of his best albums — say, "Kind of Blue" and "In a Silent Way" — and a copy of Ian Carr's "critical biography", published in 1982. Carr's book is based on secondary sources, it needs up-dating, and it is certainly over-reverential at times, but it is still far more eloquent than anything Davis has to offer.

The main problem with *Miles* is that it comes straight from the great man's mouth. Quincy Troupe, a New York poet and jazz journalist, may be credited as co-author, but his role seems to have been confined to changing the batteries in the tape recorder. What is left is a rambling and profane monologue, a dispiriting mixture of ego and paranoia. The cool, laconic figure

so beloved of CBS publicity campaigns is nowhere to be seen. Instead Davis uses the opportunity to settle scores with fellow-musicians, critics, ex-wives, and the white world in general.

If the book does have any value it is that it strips away the glamorous myths about the jazz life. The world depicted here is not some idyllic community of high-minded artists, but a collection of disparate, often inadequate individuals hustling to make an uncertain living in a hostile environment. The sections on the casual racism inflicted on black musicians remind us how strong Davis needed to be to survive, let alone make enduring music. In spite of all his denunciations of white America, he embraces its values whenever the price is right. The man who accuses Louis Armstrong of pandering to white prejudice is the same man who boasts about being cast as a dope-dealing pimp in *Miami Vice*. When he hears that Joaquin Rodrigo disliked his version of the *Concierto de Aranjuez*, his sensitive reply is pure Sam Goldwyn: "Let's see if he likes it after he starts getting those big royalty cheques."

If you want to know what Davis was doing during his five-year absence from the music scene from 1975, the answer is that he was ploughing his way through illegal substances and "bitches", otherwise known as women. Today, desperate to win over Prince's young audience, he admits to putting little effort into his albums, simply playing over pre-recorded rhythm tracks. As for his live performances, watching him strutting to the funky beat is like watching Olivier dropping his trousers in *The Betsy*. Ultimately, *Miles: The Autobiography* is very much like the concerts: long, vulgar and monotonous.



One of John Vernon Lord's humorous drawings from a new poetry anthology, *The Song That Sings the Bird* (Collins, £6.95). Ruth Craft has done the collecting, managing successfully to find everything from leg-pulls to the poems that "make you sit still and concentrate". The illustration goes with a Mary Coleridge verse, "The Great Rain is Over", from a section called *A Touch of Weather*

Common campus ground

Now is the time when the UCCA forms exert their seasonal influence. Youthful persons are to be found making zig-zag journeys, anywhere between Exeter and Aberdeen, in quest of hospitable quarters for the coming autumn. What will they make of *Going Up* as an introductory handbook to their academic future?

The story, such as it is, concerns Tom (from a village shop) and Sue (an estate-agent's daughter) and their converging paths during their first year at the University of Blank-on-Sea. By putting one of them into digs and the other into a Hall of Residence, Hunt ensures a proper distribution of such educational experiences as gossip, pub-

FOR CHILDREN
Brian Alderson

GOING UP
By Peter Hunt
Julia MacRae, £8.95

crawling, and awful cooking — with a few forays into laboratories and libraries, and no forays at all into politics or demos.

He fills out the scene with an assortment of more or less affable characters, and, although nothing much happens, there is a consistent liveliness in his local observations and in his taste for backchat which

nically conveys the air of rather orderly anarchy that goes to make up life at your average English university.

Well — one assumes it does. For although Peter Hunt is an esteemed writer of slightly avant-garde children's novels (working in the benign shadow of William Mayne), he is also a university lecturer. His publisher tells us that he has visited more than 90 colleges around the world and "lectured at more than 40 of them", so he must be in as good a position as anyone to make Tom and Sue authentic models for those who will soon be "going up". Certainly, this quick-witted story is the most approachable of all his books so far.

Pal Snowy

Martin Spence

TINTIN IN THE LAND OF THE SOVIETS
by Hergé
Sundancer, £8.95

When Tintin, saved by Snowy and a sack of salt from turning into an icicle forever, calls his horse Rosinante as they charge together out of a frame in *Tintin in the Land of the Soviets*, his character is born. He is Don Quixote, the born romantic who lives for adventure. Snowy, his fellow traveller, the ultimate realist, who, particularly on the Russian steppes, lives only for a bone.

Congratulations to the publishers for daring at last to publish the very first Tintin adventure (1929) in this country, especially since Tintin is not the dominant character. This is a fluid, embryonic, unformed Tintin, hastily concocted by Hergé from the boy scout Totor.

It's Snowy, a massive cranium dwarfing his body, who dominates the glasnostalgia, bounding breathlessly through the caviare, the secret police and the snow, doing undercover work disguised as a tiger. A Snowy whose first words, "I've been told there are fleas in Russia", establish the communion, if not the Communism, of the pre-war world. From splendid stereotypes of the aristocratic English fellow-travellers of the period to Chinese torturers and a swartzy Russian revolutionary, each primitive frame flickers with crude energy. Such speed, such surrealism, such irony. Those who can't take it can toddle back to Asterix.

Murderers by th

Victoria Glendinning on the disturbing things convicted murderers reveal about the bad things, and some of the good ones, in their lives

Violence. I was thinking about it the other night. Either you understand it or you don't. If you understand it, you find it hard to explain to somebody who doesn't. . . . The speaker knifed a complete stranger on a street at night. He was 18 at the time, drunk, and in a rage with his father. Several of the men in this book killed strangers, for shockingly trivial reasons; victims are often stand-ins for whoever is the real object of hatred, grief, or anger. These murderers are not mad, though most murderers seem irrational, and the perpetrators cannot explain why they did it. They repeatedly use the words "unfortunate" and "unfortunately", in a stiff, puzzled way, as in, "unfortunately I then ended her life by smothering her with a pillow".

That man was speaking of his own daughter. The stories told by the child-murderers are dreadful. Appalling answers are elicited by Parker's no doubt appalling questions. The man who tells the most dreadful story of all, about the way he killed his 18-month-old son, was "totally emotionally dead" for the first four years of his sentence, but is now tortured by remorse. So he damn well should be, you will say. But listening to him, you can't take the easy way out, and dismiss such men as

LIFE AFTER LIFE:
INTERVIEWS WITH
TWELVE MURDERERS
By Tony Parker
Secker & Warburg, £14.95

inhuman — though some avoid mental torment by continuing to block out all feeling: "You don't remember. Your mind won't let you; it can't. Never."

Parker's questions probe their childhoods, but a good many of the murderers can tell him almost nothing. "My early life I only remember bits and pieces about", or "I can't think of anything much in the way of childhood memories at all." Sometimes continued probing elicits memories of grim misery and devastating betrayal by adults, or a milieu in which petty crime was a way of life, a career option. But a vagueness about the past, plus an absence of any strong network of friends and family, a lack of marketable skills, and a lack of roots in any one place, seem to be common factors. I suppose the capsule word for this is "alienation". When you have no history, the taboo against terminating the history of another person is more easily broken.

If Tony Parker has a thesis of his own, he's not telling. As always, he presents the interviews as monologues, with his questions edited out. His only interventions are short descriptive passages about appearance or mannerisms. So you have to make your own mind up about these murderers — which means coming to grips with yourself, in uncomfortable ways. His introduction explains how imprisonment for life is the only sentence the law allows for murder, though lifers can be let out on licence at any stage, and recalled to prison if they misbehave. Out on licence, they must report regularly to their probation officers.

We are not told on what principle Parker selected his interviewees, so there is no way of knowing whether their attitudes are typical. But each one speaks of his or her probation officer with respect, sometimes with affection. As a woman who had done 30 years for killing a woman friend says, prison and probation seem at cross-

purposes. "Prison officers try to destroy your individuality so they can manage you in a mass better", and when you come out on licence "your probation officer tries to build up your individuality so you can act like a person again". It would be a good idea, she says, "if they got together and decided which it was they wanted to be done with you".

Lifers are moved around from prison to prison, and are not always sure in what part of the country they are. One man finds it easier to be inside than out on licence, having become fearful of the world, and commits offences in order to get recalled. Yet the same man, weeping, tells what prison does — "eating you away inch by inch, depriving you of more and more of what's left of your personality and feelings. . . ."

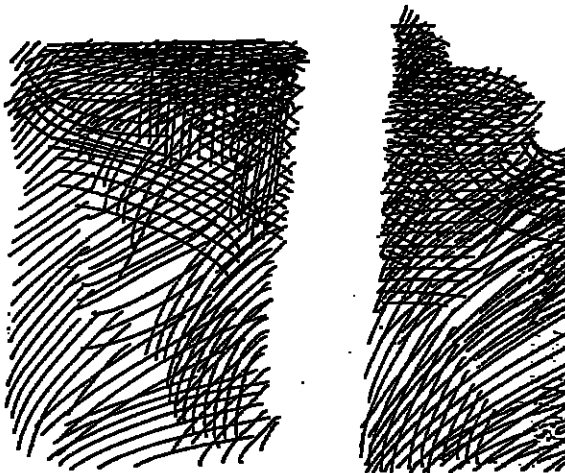
What is saving him, as it saves others, is the prison education programme. This is something you have to "apply to be considered for". It should be automatic, for all long-term prisoners. None of these murderers did any good at school. They come in ignorant, unqualified, and believing themselves to be thick. Reading these people's life-stories would convince anyone who needed convincing that a massive national commitment to introduce not just adequacy but excellence

into state education would reduce both the crime rate and the number of people who grow up frustrated and ill-equipped.

The angry man who stabbed the stranger in the street now has five O levels and two A levels and is going out on licence to a polytechnic. A 20-stone bully who had been a professional fire-fighter, party to a murder that left the victim stabbed 30 times, was sent in prison a copy of the *Four Quartets*. He felt it was written for him. Eliot was his lifeline into humanity. This sounds so unlikely as to be funny, but it's true.

Where education has not done the trick, love has. It comes in strange guises. The oldest lifer in England, a woman who has been violently aggressive all her life, lives — peaceably — for her Alsatian bitch. (It scared Parker out of his wits.) Another female murderer and former prostitute is a born-again Christian, hoping to work with women in prison to prevent them wasting their lives when they come out. One prostitute stabbed a Dutch sailor to death for the sake of a taxi fare. Discovering in prison that she preferred the "calm and sensible" love of another woman, she plans to set up house with her. A casual labourer who bludgeoned a stranger to death with a starting-handle is now living in insightful bliss with Jennifer — who, it transpires, is a prison psychologist 20 years older than himself.

These are the happier stories. Less happy, because more recognizable, is the attitude of the jaunty young man who killed his grandfather with a pair of scissors. He and his mother never mention it. "To tell the truth I never give it much thought and I shouldn't think she does either." He speaks as if the bad things never happened, or happened to someone else. It's how everyone tends to deal with the bad things they have done, even when they have not, yet, committed murder.



Whose fault was the Dieppe raid?

The Dieppe Raid is as deeply etched in Canadian military mythology as Vimy Ridge but for opposite reasons. Vimy was, by First World War standards, a costly but undoubted victory. Dieppe was a courageous disaster. Out of the 5,000 Canadians embarked, 2,700 did not return. It is hardly surprising that each new generation of Canadian historians should seek "the reason why".

Brian Loring Villa spent eight years researching this, his first book, and gives credit to his two Harvard mentors, William Langer and Ernest May. Some of his reconstructions of events, however, show more imagination than knowledge of the workings of Whitehall.

Villa accepts the two generally acknowledged tactical reasons for the defeat: the cancellation of the preliminary air bombardment, and inadequate naval fire support, caused by the Admiralty's refusal to risk capital ships in the Channel after the loss of Prince of Wales and Repulse. He also agrees the German records show that surprise was not lost, as is so often claimed, by the six-week postponement of the raid. His case is that it should never have been mounted in the first place, because it was tactically unsound, and that his researches show its mounting by Mountbatten was never authorized.

His analysis of the political pressures in 1942 that led to the raid is well done. Churchill and the War Cabinet were being hammered by the combined Soviet and "Second Front Now" lobbies, on the anvil of Washington's premature determination to mount a major cross-Channel assault in 1942. Dieppe, partially assuaged these pressures, but it was also a logical part of the British strategy of coastal raiding in 1942.

His pen pictures of the principal actors and their motives are credible, except when he comes to Mountbatten and Admiral John Hughes-Hallett, who planned the raid. They are both cast as villains

of the piece. Churchill was, as ever, demanding offensive action. Alan Brooke, the CIGS, was fending off his demands for an invasion of northern Norway, and accepted Dieppe as a sop to his master, and as a much-needed probe of Hitler's Atlantic Wall. Dudley Pound, the First Sea Lord, had been unmoved by the recent loss of Russian convoy PQ 17, and was not prepared to oppose the raid, although he advised against providing capital ship support.

Villa's clearest picture is quite naturally of the Canadian hierarchy — Mackenzie King, the Prime Minister, Generals McNaghon and Crerar, and the unfortunate "Ham" Roberts, commander of the 2nd Canadian Division, whose career was blighted by the disaster. Their troops had seen no action since they arrived in England in the winter of 1939, and so they wanted to carve a leading role for Canada in establishing the Second Front. Dieppe provided a stepping-stone.

Thus there was general acceptance of the Dieppe plan, which was endorsed by the British and Canadian Governments; but Villa goes to great lengths to show that the Chiefs of Staff never, in fact, endorsed it after its six-week postponement due to bad weather. He contends that Mountbatten ordered its resurrection without authority, in pursuit of his personal ambition to become the Supreme Allied Commander for the future invasion of Europe.

Those who have doubts over Mountbatten may find Villa's conclusions credible, but other readers, who know a little more about the workings of Whitehall, will see them as academic hogwash. Even though no written endorsement of the raid has been found in the Chiefs of Staff minutes, it is really conceivable that the Canadian commanders would have allowed their troops to be re-embarked for the largest amphibious raid ever carried out without their Government's consent?

Recently I was reading a number of poems packed with references to Hiroshima and Auschwitz, and getting depressed about the inadequacy of verse to say anything at all about such subjects, and then I came across Geoffrey Hill's sequence about the Wars of the Roses, and it occurred to me that one reason why this works, where so many political or at any rate "committed" pieces do not, is just that it takes time to translate the nightmare of history into poetry. All the same, I wouldn't like to think that it necessarily takes as much time as that; and Shakespeare was referring in reasonably good verse to some of Hill's subject matter, quite a bit before him.

I'm afraid *The Poetry of War*, edited by Simon Fuller, does not take this serious subject quite seriously enough. This is an anthology that ranges from 1914 to 1989, from Rupert Brooke's silly sonnet thanking God for the First World War to Seamus Heaney feeling upset after an encounter with armoured cars of the British Army in Northern Ireland. A merit of the book is that it contains poems written from a civilian perspective,

Transl night

POETRY

Robert Nye

BIG NOISES, SMALL ROOMS:

The Poetry of War 1914-1989
Edited by Simon Fuller
BBC/Longman, £3.50

SHORT AFTERNOONS

By Kit Wright
Hutchinson, £6.95

SEVEN WINTERS IN PARIS

By Thomas McCarthy
Anvil Press, £4.95

only sensible in view of the fact that civilians have been in the front-line at least since Guernica. Publication of the volume coincides with the

Dealing in bl

FICTION

Dinah Birch

A DRY WHITE SEASON

By Andre Brink
Fleming, £3.99

ALL ONE HORSE

By Breyten Breytenbach
Faber, £14.99

school, he embarks on a relentless search for justice which transforms his understanding of the world. Ben's dogged commitment destroys him and many around him. But his journey of discovery is seen as an uncompromising assertion of human stature, and his death becomes a secular martyrdom.

Andre Brink's writing is brilliant conviction. His characters move in a world of absolutes: goodness and truth with cruelty and greed, and the reader is never left in any doubt as to which is which. Oddly

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dozen

Eric James on what is revealed and concealed about the life of an archbishop, and his portrait

The authors of these two volumes — which concern the same subject: the last Archbishop of Canterbury but one — could hardly be more different, so that the volumes themselves are utterly different.

Michael De-la-Noy was press secretary to Michael Ramsey from 1967 to 1970. But the term "press secretary" inadequately describes the relationship he had with the archbishop and his wife, who were childless; sometimes, De-la-Noy was treated more as a son than as a secretary, until the abrupt end of his time in the archbishop's employ.

De-la-Noy will have known that the "life" of the Archbishop, by no less a person than the Revd Dr Owen Chadwick OM, Regius Emeritus Professor of Modern History at Cambridge, was soon to appear, and that he would be well advised to call his volume not a "life" but a "portrait"; and had better look sharp (in more senses than one) and get it out before Chadwick's "life" appeared. More than half De-la-Noy's "portrait" is biography of Ramsey before he knew him, when, understandably, it swings more to personal reminiscence. Alas, the pressure to publish has produced a book bespattered with mistakes and misprints.

But the essential difference between the two volumes lies elsewhere. When Archbishop Randall Davidson, before he died, gave his successor, Cosmo Gordon Lang, his blessing, he twice repeated: "God give you judgement". Clearly he believed that to be the gift above all others with which an archbishop needed to be endowed. It may be maintained that if an archbishop's staff are to assist him, they too will need the gift of judgement — and no less after his death (Michael Ramsey's widow, Joan, thankfully, is still alive) — in how they share their privileged experience. It will not do simply to proclaim upon the house-top what was spoken in the ear in closets. Both these volumes are therefore a fascinating study in judgement: not just the arch-

Closer to God

MICHAEL RAMSEY
A Life

By Owen Chadwick
Oxford, £17.50

MICHAEL RAMSEY
A Portrait

By Michael De-la-Noy
Collins, £12.99

bishop's, but that of each author.

They both skilfully describe Ramsey's strange childhood, his schooldays, his days at Cambridge, and the ensuing tragedy of his mother's death, necessitating a period of psychoanalysis for the future archbishop. Chadwick inevitably outshines De-la-Noy on what the latter calls "The Making of a Theologian": Ramsey's days at Lincoln Theological College, as professor at Durham and Cambridge, and as author of major theological works. In describing Ramsey's decision concerning the bishopric of Durham, leading swiftly to the archbishopric of York, Chadwick is also superb. Well over half Chadwick's pages are devoted to Ramsey as Archbishop of Canterbury; a masterly account of his response to the world and the church in the Sixties to the homosexual question, abortion, capital punishment; to the race question — at home, in South Africa, in Rhodesia; to the theological ferment of the decade; to the ecumenical situation.

"When the Pope (Paul VI) said goodbye," Chadwick writes, "he gave Ramsey his most generous gift

of all. He slipped off the episcopal ring, with its emeralds and diamonds, and put it in Ramsey's palm, and Ramsey put it on his finger. No Pope could have said anything bolder about that vexing sore over the validity of Anglican Orders." Chadwick leaves you in no doubt that Ramsey was a great archbishop, and, what is more, a man of God, who grew even closer to God in the last quiet years of his life.

But Chadwick, in his discretion and wisdom, omits much that De-la-Noy, in his calculated indiscretion, includes: for instance, the archbishop's neglect, within his own diocese of Canterbury, of his suffragan bishops. "The lack of liaison between Lambeth Palace and the suffragan bishops was at times nothing less than a disgrace," writes De-la-Noy. Chadwick says little of Ramsey's relations with his staff — with, for instance, John Andrew, his chaplain at York and at Canterbury. On the other hand, De-la-Noy writes: "For eight years he served in many ways as the most influential member of Ramsey's household, for he enjoyed the total confidence and affection of the Ramsey and allowed himself to become something of a buffer rather than a stepping-stone between Ramsey and the bishops. This the bishops came to resent." Chadwick mentions De-la-Noy only twice: once to contradict him. De-la-Noy had written: "Ramsey was essentially a lonely and sad man with no close friends apart from his wife." This is a wrong judgement," Chadwick retorts.

Chadwick may well be right on that point — his judgement is rarely to be faulted; but he would be more convincing had he allowed Ramsey not only his eccentricities but his faults. De-la-Noy is Lambeth with the lid off. Some of the garbage has fallen out of the bin, and some of it has been helped out. (Most human habitations, even episcopal palaces, have their garbage.) Chadwick is Lambeth with the lid on, and screwed down — with such turned and polished screws.



Closer to God than most: Michael Ramsey, one of our great archbishops

In the blockbuster stakes

THRILLERS

Chris Petit

Mambo (Hodder & Stoughton, £12.95) by Campbell Armstrong continues his habit of iffy titles and again features Frank Pagan, copper with a nose for international conspiracy. *Mazurka*, his last, showed that Armstrong's political hunches were ahead of the game: there he anticipated the rise of nationalism in the USSR; here he goes for Cuba, whose downfall is determined by so many sub-plots that one has to conclude that Armstrong is playing for international blockbuster stakes. There's a loony German master terrorist, a shady secret society whose members are mysteriously being bumped off — Agatha Christie-style — from within, workaholic coppers, vulnerable *femmes fatales*, and enough mercenary extras to fill a Hollywood epic. Pagan, wounded in the prelude, has trouble with his stitches, as does the plot, which occasionally threatens to burst at the seams. Intelligence notwithstanding, its climax is disappointingly Hammed Innes-ish, with hero suspended from helicopter and baddy beneath on a bucking ship in a boiling sea; thus only beta plus brackets plus.

In Frank O'Neill's *Roman Circus* (Bantam, £12.95), Italian terrorists, with the inevitable Libyan connection, stir up anti-American feeling by acts of sabotage against US installations on Italian soil, killing innocent locals in the process. Leisurely descriptions of the *dolce vita*, an eye for the detail of intelligence work, and a lived-in feel promise well, but, in spite of a large cast, the story is basically a three-hander, and careful establishing fails to disguise a fetching but implausible fairy tale involving beauty and her beasts: CIA agent fights creepy mastermind for the compromised body and soul of his first love — a socialite with reckless habits. Beta plus query plus.

According to interviews, Whitley Streiber has had encounters with aliens from other planets and is tired of the scepticism that greets his claim. Majestic (Macdonald, £12.95) fleshes out that old chestnut of a conspiracy by the US Government to suppress knowledge of little green men, with

particular reference to widely-reported sightings of UFOs in the vicinity of US nuclear air bases in 1947. I'm as willing to suspend disbelief as the next fellow, but Streiber is so intent on conversion to his cause that he fails to come up with a proper story. The abundance of creative writing lacks suction; for an altogether better example of the genre, try William Kotzwinkle's *The Exile*. Perhaps Streiber thought that persuasion was harder than is the case: there are a lot of readers out there willing, if properly led, to believe anything they're told about the CIA. Beta minus.

Torturer and tortured meet again in Douglas Terman's *Star Shot* (Collins, £11.95), far from Vietnam, mucking about on boats in the Caribbean after the Reds have noddled a hush-hush gizmo from

the US space programme — what Hitchcock used to call the MacGuffin, that which has no intrinsic plot value other than everyone wants it. Characters are slightly above par for the course — baroque cardboard — but it is the lure of the deep that most attracts Terman, who chucks in a lengthy storm at sea, a purple passage that is almost a novella of its own and a more than passable *homage* to the typhoon literature of Conrad and Richard Hughes. Beta plus.

Exchange of Doves (Hodder & Stoughton, £11.95) by Kenneth Royce offers that reheated old international ragout: Arabs, a compromised Home Secretary, what once would have been called a dolly bird, maverick Americans, and so much playing of ends against the middle that one loses sight of what's what. Truculent and chippy SAS sergeant, seconded to MI5, wonders just who is trying to rub him out; sorry, reader, can't help. A fondness for the author's television series *Bulman* kept me going, even

though the bits in between inverted commas don't pass for dialogue: "You've never been in my hair but that's where I'd like you to be, Sam." Beta minus brackets minus.

The Arms of Death (Bloomsbury, £12.99) after a shaky start in which Mark Wainwright finds his voice, settles down to sullen stuff in Libya where a bunch of ratny Americans, with apparent connections to US intelligence, while away the time teaching Arabs to blow things up; meanwhile, bombs go off around Europe. Here the bits in between inverted commas are superior for the genre, specialities being the trumped insult, use of expletive and a casual racism. Wainwright is good on the absurdities of civilization — Third World supermarkets — and cynical sex, but thin on character: who's who is a problem. An overheated air of existential nihilism suggests that Paul Bowles has been mugged up along the way. This ambitious and promising first novel also makes reference to the studied cruelties of James Bond when, in fact, it owes more to the narrative ellipses and laconic style of early Deighton. Beta double plus.

PAPERBACKS

Trading a mare

Announcement of the 10 winners of nationwide Poetry of War competition organized by BBC Schools in association with the Serial War Museum, and sponsored by British Petroleum.

Ernon Scannell has a good in in here which begins:

Whenever war is spoken of I find

the war that was called Great

invades the mind...

spect it is the same for most of

The names and things of the

4-18 business — Passchendaele,

gas, mud, Moons — are burned

our imagination of war: they

war. In a way, perhaps, this is

the horrors of Auschwitz

too much: reality here stepped

net beyond imagining.

Neither Kit Wright nor Thomas

Carthy engage with such huge

ties in paperback selections of

their recent verse. Wright has a nice

Byronic contempt for poetry itself

When they say

That every day

Men die miserably without it:

I doubt it.

This is grown up, but if it was all

he could do it would hardly be enough.

Rather more interesting is his

attempt, in the title poem, to use a

similar wit to keep things moving

along even where inspiration dries

up. Here is a resourceful and clever

writer, with an educated ear, who is

always entertaining and occa-

sionally something more. His best

stanzas look drunk and sound

drunk, but I suspect that a sober

imagination — and certainly a sober

technique — were needed in order

to achieve them.

Do not be deceived by the

doggerel in McCarthy's *Seven Win-*

ters in Paris. Here are ladies with

"Natasia Kinski eyes" and others

with "Marie Corelli faces", and the

poet himself is a gentleman who

doesn't mind rhyming "nappy-

changing" with "Sudocrem". Imag-

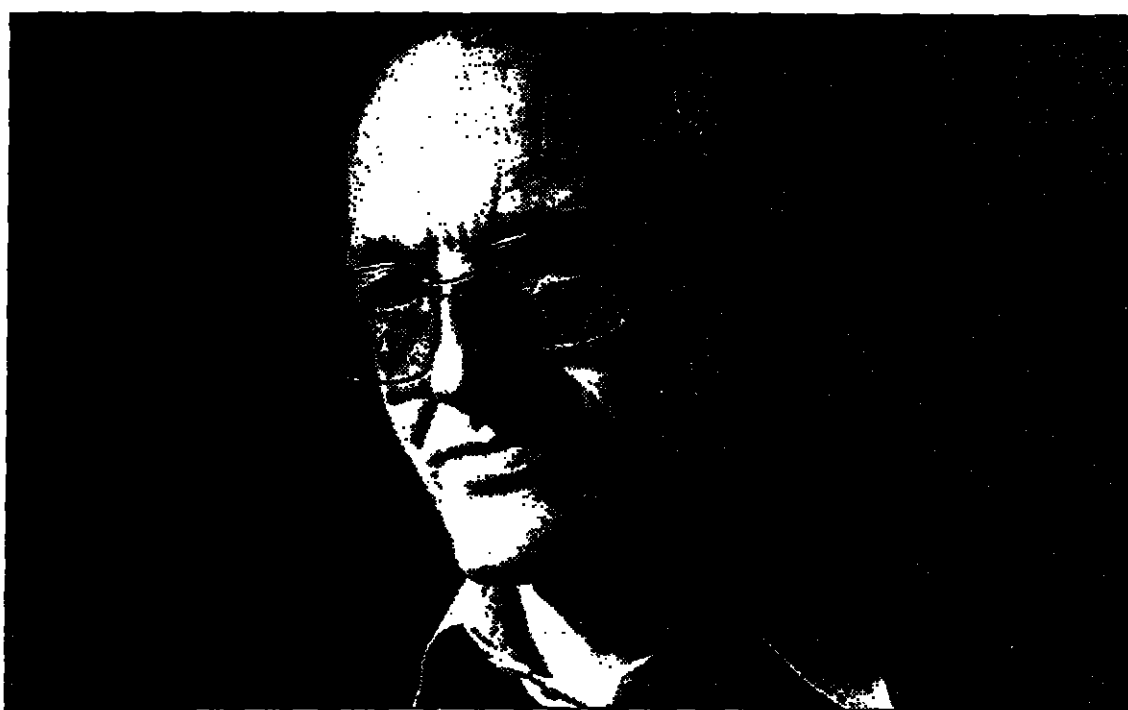
ination is inflated in these recent

little meditations on modern life

just in order to prick it upon the

actual, which he usually equates

with the absurd.



Still fretting at the conventions: Michael Frayn, whose plays are almost as funny on the page as on the stage

Boxed set of farce

Hamish Lennox

JAMIE ON A FLYING

VISIT/BIRTHDAY

By Michael Frayn

Methuen, £5.99

Though never intended as companion pieces, the scripts for Michael Frayn's television plays make apt book-fellows. Each concerns a large, ebullient and thick-skinned visitor disrupting a dull household and becoming incapacitated on the premises, which accordingly fill up with superlatives. Each advertises its plot by means of early hints the size of barrage balloons. When Jamie descends on an old flame, his promise of the title (which could equally have been *Jamie's Ten Minutes*) lets you know it will be days. When the birthday girl's hugely pregnant sister begins her lunchtime visit with the announcement that her babies always arrive overdue, you feel like dialling the first two nines and standing by for developments.

These set-ups aren't quite the stuff of the Whitehall Farce, but their debt to traditional farce is patent. In the same way that Alan Ayckbourn's drama, though ostensibly designed to provoke unease in its audience, is in fact uneasy with itself — it can't decide whether its farcical instincts are quite acceptable in polite company — so Frayn's comedy fires at the conventions without threatening them. Ayckbourn began with farce and moved

on to his celebrated no-man's-land; only much later did Frayn go the whole hog with *Noises Off*.

When Jamie was first transmitted in the *Wednesday Play* slot in 1968 (the tapes were wiped) the eponym was played by Anton Rodgers, a farcical note. Its comedy is predicated on the visible contrast between the outside, maladroitness and the cramped semi-private world of the undergarment sweetieheart subsists with three children and a harassed school-

master husband (Dinsdale Landen, if you please). In brisk succession Jamie accidentally trashes the front hedge, spills or breaks any number of household effects, and caps his performance by destroying the banisters while helpfully manoeuvring a bed down the staircase. With a broken leg in plaster he still insists on taking the wife for a spin in his Jaguar, a trip which does for the lamp-post across the road and wrecks the husband's car.

This is all rather Laurel and Hardy, and almost as funny on the page, but the comedy deteriorates when Jamie invites his hooray pals around for drinks.

The house begins to burst at the seams, and the displaced sexual sadism of his antics mutates into class churlishness. In *Birthday*, a titbit with a softer centre, the principle tension is between the monstrous self-absorption of the pregnant visitor and the rational arguments of her sister's flatmates, childish experts on child psychology. This element is unfortunately old-hat, and the whole script is nothing like so visually inventive as *Jamie*. Appropriately enough, the BBC is to revive the second play for radio, while the first will reappear on television. Frayn is a loss to that medium.

Next week: Boris Yeltsin, P. J. Kavanagh, Oscar Wilde's devoted friend, Nigel Williams, John Mortimer, science fiction, children

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Wall of silence

TELEVISION
Sheridan Morley

Ten years ago, the problems of child abuse were largely ignored in this country by those unwilling or unable to accept the level and intensity of the problem. Now, much the same situation faces those trying to deal with abuse of the old and infirm.

By the year 2000, as *Public Eye* (BBC 2) observed in its chilling survey, there will be a million people in Britain over the age of 85, many of them unable to look after themselves. More and more frequently, hospitals are now receiving elderly patients with unmistakable signs of bruising and even broken arms and legs, caused by a usually caring younger relative suddenly unable to deal with the pressures of living with a parent who demands 24-hour attention.

The answer, as several consultant geriatricians remarked on the programme, is not as simple as the appointment of blame. Many of the guilty relatives are loving children and grandchildren driven to distraction by the lack of professional assistance and the feeling of being totally trapped with a parent day and night.

But the stigma understandably attached to the abuse of the elderly means that few are willing to talk about it: the victims fear of being cast out of the family home, and the perpetrator for shame at the realization of what has suddenly happened in a once-loving household. A wall of silence still surrounds the problem, but it is one that Subhi Babbat's documentary begins to breach.

Later, as a curtain-raiser to tonight's *Rhythms of the World* concert, *Arena* (BBC 2) profiled Salfi Ketha, known as the golden voice of Mali, and an albino singer apparently able in childhood to scare most of the animals off his father's farm by the sheer volume of his fervent singing. Tonight's concert promises, therefore, to be noisy, even if Ketha himself appears to have had some sort of charisma-bypass operation.

Back in BBC1's *Whicker's World* (or "Ego Trip"), which might have been the better travel title) the blazered maestro found himself a really good interview. It was with Jack Edwards, a survivor of Japanese prison camps, who returned to Hong Kong to fight for pensions and passports for those families of all nationalities who fought alongside him in the defence of the Crown Colony in 1941. Sadly, this fight may prove equally doomed under government policy.

But Whicker has also at last found some old newsreels of the Chinese escaping to Hong Kong from the very country which is now about to reclaim them, and he is wisely plundering his own earlier footage to establish how the colony has changed both economically, industrially and socially as well.

Brush with the unusual

The star of London's newest musical, Sondheim's *Sunday in the Park with George*, is a huge painting. But is the National Theatre painting itself into profit or loss? Peter Lewis reports

A week of intense activity at the Lyttelton reaches a climax tonight with the first preview of Stephen Sondheim's *Sunday in the Park with George*. Scenically, it is the most elaborate show mounted by the National Theatre for years. It has to be the musical stars a famous painting.

In order to recreate Georges Seurat's crowded canvas, "Sunday afternoon on the island of La Grande Jatte", 10 scene painters worked for six weeks on the National's huge paint-frame, producing six versions of the painting, on varying scales.

They have stuck faithfully to Seurat's controlled palette of 11 colours plus white, but pointillism on this scale takes application. All those dots have to be flicked into place, and very few can be applied by paint-roller, even a spotty one. The riverscape glimpsed through the trees runs upstage on a cyclorama, well into what is normally the backstage scene dock. The Lyttelton's depth of stage can outdo even the Theatre Royal, Drury Lane.

Having begun with the stage as a blank canvas, the living picture is finally assembled at the first act curtain. As Act II begins, it is hanging on the wall of its Chicago gallery - but this, too, turns out to be a *tableau vivant*, which bursts into song. Few theatres have the dimensions to accommodate illusion-building on this scale, so Sondheim jumped at the chance. He says it was his dream to see the show staged at the Lyttelton.

The National's executive director, David Aukin, at first invited Sondheim's collaborator, James Lapine, to restage the Broadway production with its original principals. But, after a year of failing to get everyone back together, he and Richard Eyre, artistic director of

the National, decided to stage their own production, with director Steven Pimlott and designer Tom Cairns. It is not a reproduction of the Broadway show of 1984, the only common participant being Sondheim himself.

Mounting musicals in subsidised theatres is a contentious process, as the RSC found out. Even a musical that makes as much money as *Les Misérables* was castigated for keeping the Bard out of the Barbican for months; if a show fails, public ire is even greater.

Musicals require a largely specialised cast, are notoriously expensive, and appeal to a different audience from the regular patrons. At the National, there have been two precedents: one was its biggest hit, the other its most resounding disaster. In 1982, *Gyps and Dolls* played 370 sold-out performances before transferring. It was a critical success, as well as paying off the theatre's deficit.

The notorious miscalculation, *Jean Seberg*, bombed in 1983 and lost most of what *Gyps and Dolls* had made. The National was not only blamed artistically, it was condemned for allowing its stage to be used for a comparatively cheap try-out of a Broadway gamble. Worst, it was committed to giving the show 75 performances to half-empty houses.

Sunday in the Park is the first reprise to be attempted since that

unhappy turkey. This time there are no deals or plans for commercial exploitation. The show is seen as a purely National Theatre enterprise which could pay its way within the scheduled run.

The initial cost of staging is £250,000-£300,000 (a bargain by commercial theatre standards), and advance bookings already top £500,000. The show opens halfway to its target of £1.2 million, thanks in part to a contribution of £100,000 from the producer and Sondheim devotee, Cameron Mackintosh. "He is doing it for love of the show," Aukin said.

But no chickens are being counted yet. *Sunday in the Park* ran for only 15 months on Broadway, despite glowing reviews. No London management wanted to risk it here, where Sondheim musicals, other than *A Little Night Music*, have not done well at the box office. But Aukin argues that it is exactly the sort of musical the National Theatre should be doing.

"It's a musical for players - Sondheim is up there among the straight playwrights, like Albee. I think we should drop the artificial distinction between straight and musical theatre as two different genres. At its best, musical theatre ranks alongside straight drama and it is proper for the National Theatre to include in its repertoire the finest examples. He admits to personal adora-



PETER TREHVNOR

"It's a mistake to do musicals to generate income," David Aukin says. "It's a mistake to do musicals to generate income. They must be done for their own sake, in good faith. And new ones are probably best left to others." If this one works, there could well be other revivals. But with 17

Beached banality

RADIO
Martin Cropper

Lenny Bruce on Bondi (Radio 3, Tuesday) was a title in search of a story. What it found was an imploding fantasy born of sentimental regression. An ageing magazine journalist (Australian ex-pat in London) is sent audio cassettes of an unnamed American holding forth on a surf-heavy beach. His foggy editor posts him to Sydney to investigate their provenance in the company of a glamorous researcher, whose husband just happens to be a leading authority on Lenny Bruce, as well as a dentist.

The sender of the tapes just happens to be an old school chum and is now a mediocre comedian. In 1951 (he now says) he hung out on the beach with the then unknown Bruce, recording improvised comedy routines on his old reel-to-reel. After the longest dramatic pause in showbiz history, he now wishes to go public.

The spirit of Lenny Bruce being entirely absent from all this, it was a tactical error to end the play with a genuine chunk of that master of surrealism in concert. Adrian George's play was both naturalistic and thoroughly unlikable, a combination which leads to banality.

The journalists spoke like policemen giving evidence, while the Australian comic's conversational style seemed to have been lifted from a magazine page. This undoubtedly saved his old friend much time when it came to writing up the story. On the beach: "Here comes Sammy with what looks like a carrier-bag full of cassettes." The inner eye looked up in astonishment.

Last night, as though to make amends, Radio 3 brought Samuel Beckett with what still looks like one of the BBC's most inspired commissions. *All That Fall* (1957) inhabits a bucolic purgatory abandoned by nature: even the sounds of the wildlife are patently actors practising animal impressions. The country railway station is not so much a location as a hallucination, and this is precisely why Beckett works on radio. His landscapes, being essentially interior, do not benefit from visual representation. They belong to the page and to the airwaves.

ON MONDAY

Paul Griffiths reviews the new staging of Elektra at Covent Garden, and David Toop watches Spandau Ballet in Docklands

Decency unbreached

Paul Griffiths

Der Rosenkavalier
New, Cardiff

Göran Järvefelt's death last November left Welsh National Opera with sets and costumes for *Der Rosenkavalier*, but no production to put inside them. Wolfgang Weber nobly agreed to produce the opera with the Carl Friedrich Oberle designs, which was not too much of a limitation, where the sets are concerned, since Oberle's slantwise views for the first two acts cleverly suggest grand rooms on a small stage.

The costumes, though, are more personal: this is a very plainly dressed Sophie, the Rose Cavalier makes an oddly unglamorous appearance in baggy silver clothes and straying powdered wig, reminding one of the Järvefelt-Oberle Rheingold, and the Mars-

challin in Act III has a gown in strident red set off by white fur and the high white cocked hat of a pantomime finale. The only decisive point made by the clothes is that the limps who terrify Ochs are got up as miniature Octavians.

Otherwise this is a production remarkable only in its moderation: moderately conventional, moderately funny, moderately lively, moderately attentive to the ripples of emotion. It seems characteristic of the evening's chasteness that Octavian and the Marschallin should be discovered at the beginning not in bed but flopped on a couch, with the lad's breeches still firmly sealed.

The singing is on the same level of decency, though there are many signs that this will change. Rita Cullis's Marschallin, most notably, was much more assured in the

last act, even despite the vulgar costume, than in the first. Where she had risked too much rawness and fragility of tone and phrasing in searching for expressive shading, she found for the close that superbness which perhaps she can now make innate from the start.

She already has the distinction of being able to put across a great deal of the text: only she and Donald Adams's Ochs take any advantage from the fact - or even allow one to hear, for much of the time - that the piece is being sung in English. Or rather in New York Cockney where Constance Fee's Octavian as Mariandl is concerned. Apart from that problem, Fee had difficulties in keeping intonation and a thin sound at the top under control; she also needs stiffer direction in looking manish.

Amanda Roccoft as Sophie

looks properly pretty and sings winningly. If there was some nervousness at making her professional debut in so exposed a part, it quickly passed, and left us with a creamy middle register out of which the high notes were projected with perfect, steady grace.

Donald Adams, quite some way past his debut, offers an Ochs with only a few strong notes left, though he makes good use of his experience on stage, twinkling, bellowing and expostulating against the wan average of the characterization in this production. There are also some nice cameos, particularly from Jennifer Rhys Davies as the duenna, Peter Broder as an excellent, unexaggerated Italian Tenor, and Dennis Wicks as the police chief.

More generally, and not for the



Debut: Amanda Roccoft (Sophie)

first time in a WNO production, the musical quality is hauled up a good few notches by Charles Mackerras's work in the pit. His speeds sometimes test the orchestra (at the start of the final act, for instance), but while providing an accompaniment secure in its richness and detail, he finds the darkness always waiting in the score, and gives the music the pounce of the theatre.

Sound-mix cue for mutiny

Jazz
Clive Davis
Hilton Ruiz
QEH

By the time he left the stage, Hilton Ruiz had finally won over his audience. It was, however, a close-run thing. The opening date in his Contemporary Music Network tour came very close to falling apart. The problems were not entirely the pianist's

fault. During the first half, in particular, he had to contend with an atrocious sound-mix which rendered half of the eight-piece band inaudible, and swamped the rest of the musicians with feedback. Although this is becoming a regular event at the Queen Elizabeth Hall, some of the audience were close to mutiny by the interval.

The other difficulty was probably self-inflicted. This simply did not look like a group which had given itself enough time to rehearse. Cues were regularly fluffed, and for much of the time the front line of trombonist Dick Griffin, saxophonist Peter Brainin and trumpeter Danny Moore, seemed to have no idea what Ruiz was planning to do next. Ultimately, the show was held together by the group's



Starting on a poor note: pianist Hilton Ruiz, plagued by technical accomplished rhythm section, the congas and timbales seamlessly switching back and forth between a Latin beat and a more fluid pop attack. That fusion of salsa and straight jazz has become Ruiz's trademark in a series of albums for Novus. A New Yorker of Puerto Rican descent, he studied piano with Mary Lou Williams and served most of his musical apprenticeship with the unpredictable Roland Kirk. On his last LP, *Strut*, he continued

So who cares whodunit?

THEATRE
Jeremy Kingston
Moscow Shadows
New End Theatre

Understandably, plays about Moscow life are flavour of the month. But this particular one is not made in Russia and exported by courtesy of *glaznost*: it is authored by Harris W. Freedman, Brooklyn-born and bred, and rings false from beginning to end.

We are in Anna Petrovna's flat one February afternoon a year ago. Her grandson, Igor, has had the good fortune to walk out a couple of minutes before the play begins, and the even greater good fortune of staying away for the duration.

He therefore misses the arrival of Natasha Ivanovna from the flat next door and is spared the aggressive delivery that Josephine Tewson brings to the role, trumpeting information her neighbour already knows: "Your Vladimir resigned from the party when Khrushchev sent the tanks on to the streets in Budapest." Or she asks some such rhetorical question as: "If socialism is the answer, why did it take Olga Alexandrovna two years to obtain a visa to Tashkent?" Not many people know the answer to that.

Anna Petrovna illegally takes in boarders; Natasha Ivanovna illegally trades in furs; Olga Alexandrovna is another character who stays in the wings, but that is because she has been murdered. "Who would want to murder Olga Alexandrovna?" somebody asks, in order to cue in a certain line from Viktor Nikolovich, the local Rozzer. "That," he announces, glaring at suspects over his seriously Russian moustache, "is exactly what I am here to find out."

Why was this play written? Not, I suppose, to convey to a wider audience such tributes as the number of citizens who must live on only 75 roubles a month. This is the gossip favoured by Natasha's shy son, Alexei Isavich, to instruct his girlfriend - Mariya Lvovna, if you are still with me. No, the principal characters are Jewish, and Freedman is honourably moved by their sufferings, now as always. But his worthy aims translate into drama to very poor effect, and it is a dreadful idea to graft the steamroller tactics of a Brooklyn momma into a Moscow whodunit.

Because Anna Petrovna is conceived in less off-putting terms, and Barbara Lott does not rattle through the speeches, her mention of social issues seems to derive from her experience. On the other hand, fun-draped Mariya Lvovna (Denise Stephenson), gasping to her man in the corridor, "Take me! Now!" is straight from pulp fiction.

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RECORDS

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CLASSICAL
Hilary Finch

Four Icelandic Orchestral Works
Icelandic Symphony
Orchestra/Sakari (ITM 6-02)
(available from Iceland Music
Information Centre, Freyjugata 1,
101 Reykjavik)

Small can be less than beautiful if nobody knows that you are, and isolation is both an artistic blessing and curse. Contemporary Icelandic composers have it made in that an unusually large percentage of new works are performed shortly after completion. Compared with their other Nordic colleagues, though, little of their music is programmed in Europe, and recordings are not yet adequately distributed.

It is worth experimenting with the latest release put out by the Iceland Music Information Centre. Here are four quite different voices from the older generation of living composers, the youngest of whom is Halldor Halgrimsson, one-time pupil of Maxwell Davies and principal cello of the Scottish Chamber Orchestra. His *Poem*, for solo violin and strings, are sharply defined responses to three paintings by Chagall depicting Jacob's dream, the sacrifice of Isaac and Jacob wrestling with the angel.

CLASSICAL UPDATE

Boulez: Improvisations sur Mallarmé I-II, Le marteau sans maître, Figures-Double-Prismes Various musicians (Stradivarius STR 10028)
The early performances of the Mallarmé settings (1958, under Boulez) and *Le*

The solo violin, played with vibrant physical immediacy, leaps forward with the virtuosity of a true Chagall fiddler. The orchestra knows its place: it refuses to become involved thematically, but distances itself from the violin's searching original writing by providing a framework of attenuated skeins of sound.

Leifur Thorarinnsson's is a passionate, perverse, yet essentially romantic voice. His 1983 *Hautspil* or *Autumn Play* is an extreme example of the unpredictability which characterizes contemporary Icelandic composition. In just more than 10 minutes, nothing is repeated: a wave of Straussian intensity, a sudden woodwind frolic, a sniping of brass, an Ivesian tutti assert the constant volatility of the present. An occasionally recurring pulse gives the only sense of continuity.

Erling Blöndal Bengtsson commissioned and here plays Jón Nordal's contrastingly subtle and pungently orchestrated single-movement Cello Concerto from the same year. Its soloists stimulate change and evolution in the cello itself, which moves reluctantly from confrontation to dialogue. A brave soundtrack of an *Adagio* from Magnús Jóhannsson provides six minutes of characteristically Chagall depicting Jacob's dream, the sacrifice of Isaac and Jacob wrestling with the angel.

Marteau (1961, under Maderna) are of archival interest, but the *Figures* is something more: the first available recording of a modern masterpiece. Maderna conducts the Hague Residentie Orchestra, which a few months before gave this 1968 version its premiere under Boulez.

With a cool head

SPOKEN WORD
Peter Daville

The Mayor of Casterbridge Listen for Pleasure (LFF7535-9)
Taken from the BBC Radio Collection (ZBBC1113)

Having played Michael Henchard in the BBC television version, Alan Bates was probably the automatic choice for the formidable task of reading this three-hour condensation of Hardy's tale of the hay-trimmer who spends a lifetime paying the penalty for having had a couple of drinks too many. *The Mayor of Casterbridge* is one calamity after the other, and, without Bates's foot firmly pressed on the emotional brakes, this reading could leave you, me — and him —

prostrate with exhaustion. It is a fate we are all spared. Bates even manages to keep his cool when coping with such purplish passages as "smouldering sentiments being fanned into higher and higher inflammation".

The four 1958 editions of *Take It From Here* include the comedy series' tenth anniversary celebration in which, memorably, the weather forecast went all operatic ("The mercury's sunk to the figure 0 — Figaro! Figaro!"), and in which Jimmy Edwards and Dick Bentley contributed the following nostalgic exchange: "I admit I've put on a bit of weight in the interim"/"Yes, you've put on a bit on the outer rim, too." For scriptwriters Frank Muir and Denis Norden, and for radio comedy generally, these were indeed the golden years.

Wayward poet makes good

JAZZ

Clive Davis

Frank Morgan Mood Indigo (Artiles 51320)
Bobby Watson & Horizon The Inventor (Blue Note CDP 79195)
Charles Lloyd Quartet Fish Out Of Water (ECM 1396)
Ben Webster King Of The Tenors (Verve 537431)

Drugs, crime and prison: the story of Frank Morgan's career sounds depressingly familiar. But for once, there is a chance that the saga will have a happy ending.

In the early Fifties Morgan was being hailed as the West Coast's answer to Charlie Parker. Still a teenager, he was turning up in session after session across Los Angeles. By 17 he was a heroin addict. Like the West Coast's other alto star, Art Pepper, he slid into drug abuse. And that, more or less, was the story of the next three decades, during which Morgan served time in a string of prisons. In San Quentin, he and Pepper became co-leaders of the Warden's Band, occasionally touring the prison network.

Seemingly unable to cope with life outside prison, Morgan was not ready to tackle New York until 1986, when he finally made his debut at the Village Vanguard. A series of albums on the Contemporary label helped spread the word. If he still ranks somewhere below a true giant like Pepper, *Mood Indigo* amounts to an affirmation of his progress so far.

If he were just another bebop player, Morgan would scarcely merit all this belated attention. Like Pepper, he quickly advanced far beyond routine copies of Parker licks. The spaciousness and melodic flair of his playing — pure West Coast — carry him way beyond rigid adherence to the well-worn chord sequences. On this session the decision to avoid the standard bebop repertoire makes sense. "Lullaby", the intensely personal lament which opens the album, is a concise summary of what is to follow.

The well-advertised presence of Wynton Marsalis on two of the numbers should give the record a high profile. This is first and foremost a quartet date. Morgan is supported by bassist Buster Williams and drummer Al Foster, while George Cables shares the piano duties with Ronnie Matthews. Williams's solo piece, "A Moment Alone", forms a pensive interlude halfway through the record.

Morgan's idiosyncratic approach brings up some unusual material, including "This Love of Mine" and "Polka Dots and Moonbeams". Their inclusion makes up for the desperately over-familiar "Round Midnight", not to mention that old stand-by "In A Sentimental Mood". On the latter, at least, Morgan's duet with Cables lifts the music out of the rut. Marsalis's contribution, meanwhile, may well arouse mixed feelings, though it seems childish to complain after all he has done to champion Morgan's comeback. The Ellington title track is wonderfully relaxed, but

the same cannot be said of the trumpeter's playing on Coltrane's "Bessie's Blues". Starting out with a vivacious solo, he gradually manoeuvres himself into a punctilious dead-end. If Morgan is the wayward poet, Marsalis is the student declaiming from a grammar textbook.

Bobby Watson's Blue Note release is inevitably over-shadowed by Morgan's album. All the same, at least half of this disc catches the ex-Blakey altoist at his very best. Hearing him with his own group, Horizon, makes us all the more aware of how much we miss when he appears with pick-up bands during visits to Britain.

One of his originals, "Heckle And Joke", launches proceedings at a stunning pace in a frantic quintet performance suspended over Benny Green's insistent piano motif. Here, for once, is proof that the "neo-boppers" can swing with a vengeance: the flow of adrenaline would put a hip-hop band to shame. Awash with criss-crossing rhythms, the music is redolent of Watson's work with the much-praised 29th Street Saxophone Quartet. After the storm subsides, the second half of the session is a more workmanlike selection.

Charles Lloyd's label, ECM, is doing its best to paint his first studio recording in 10 years as the event of the century. One of the first jazz artists to pull in the big rock audiences, Lloyd retired from the fray at the end of the Sixties. His re-emergence in the early Eighties showed him moving a long way from his fusion extravaganzas. *Fish Out Of Water* is archetypal ECM chamber-jazz, tastefully presented by Bobo Stenson (piano), Palle Danielson (bass) and Jon Christensen (drums). Lovers of Jan Garbarek are sure to fall for Lloyd's caressing, unassertive tone. Less committed listeners will probably feel that there is a fine line dividing the introspective from the inconsequential.

As for the re-issue of Ben Webster's *King Of The Tenors*, a critic's scribbles become just about irrelevant. All that needs to be said is that this is Webster in the early Fifties, blowing superlatively alongside Oscar Peterson and Harry Edison. An absolute gem. The title says it all.



Swinging with a vengeance: "neo-bopper" Bobby Watson's performance would put a hip-hop band to shame

JAZZ UPDATE

Carmen McRae Live (Verve Video CFV 10252) (60min)
Video CFV 10252 (60min)
Another Tokyo date. McRae is at her most compelling in the brief interlude when her musicians leave her alone at the electric and acoustic piano.

Keith Jarrett Standards II (Verve Video CFV 10242) (60min)

A faithful video document of the pianist's popular trio, recorded in Tokyo in 1986. Jarrett's groans and grimaces are no more of a distraction than they are on record.

Chet Baker & Art Pepper The Route (Capitol/Pacific Jazz CD-CZ258)

A precursor of the classic 1956 album, the disc brings together all 11 tracks for the first time. Pepper, not long out of jail, soars through his three trio tracks.

Mike Nicholls reports on a new approach to fighting bootleggers

Bootleg recordings, for years an affliction on the record industry, are being encouraged on a tour by the Mission, which opens tomorrow in Liverpool. The band is inviting fans to bring tape recorders to their performances to make souvenirs of the event. Normally it is forbidden to make unauthorized recordings at rock shows and fans are warned that equipment may be confiscated.

Bootlegging has been around since the days of the Beatles. In 1987, a man was jailed for a month and fined £50,000 after being found guilty of running a duplication and distribution operation. The conviction was due largely to the efforts of the British Phonographic Industry, which considers it has a duty to protect the interests of record companies.

Since current material can only be released by the label to which the artist is signed at the time,

Do it yourself bootlegs

record companies do not take kindly to bootleggers. "A lot of people buy things which are of uncertain quality and can cost up to £20," says Wayne Hussey of the Mission, who suggested letting fans tape live concerts. "It's not going to affect record sales. If anything, it will stimulate them by giving us a higher profile. Every gig is worth taping because it's different. They're useful for us, too. They make us realize we're not as good as we think."

Tim Dabin, co-ordinator of the BPI's Anti-Piracy Unit, takes a different view. "In signing a contract with a record company, the band is not in a position to waive the company's exclusive rights to their recordings by allowing fans to make recordings of their own. I can't condone what the Mission is doing since we are supposed to be protecting their record company's copyrights, not giving them away."

ROCK UPDATE

3rd Bass The Cactus Album (Def Jam 46003 1)
Imaginative, irreverent succession of progressive rap collages from the Long Beach "Gang Bangers" posse of M.C. Search, Prime Minister Pete Nice and DJ Richie Rich.

Pete Seeger The Comforts of Madness (4AD CADZ 0002)

Leads trio in the forefront of the new wave of indie bands. A melancholy affair which betrays such impeccably hip influences as Ivy League, Valentine, Spacemen 3 and the Jesus And Mary Chain.

The House Of Love Fontana (Fontana 842 293-1)

A low-key cracker that simply showcases Guy Chadwick's abilities as a singer in the Ray Davies mould, and as a songwriter with an alert, modern bent, albeit tempered by a mild fixation on the Beggar's Banquet-era Rolling Stones.

A-Z GUIDE TO ROCK

Part 19 of David Sinclair's collectors' A-Z, a guide to the essential albums of the most enduring performers of rock. To qualify for inclusion in this series, an act

must have sustained a recording career of at least 10 years, and have mastered at least one decent album during that time. The entries are designed to be pasted

on to index cards and stored in a 6in by 4in filing box, available from most good stationery shops to form an instant guide to the hits and misses of rock history.

ARETHA FRANKLIN

If you want to know the truth, explained Aretha Franklin's Baptist minister father, "Aretha never left the church." In other words, the thrilling, whooping, unearthly singing voice, which earned its owner the undisputed sobriquets Lady Soul and the Queen of Soul, was always a sanctified instrument. This is especially evident on Amazing Grace (1972), a superb double live album of the gospel standards on which she was brought up. But it was her righteous application of the gospel spirit to the more earthbound specifics of soul that made Franklin one of the most influential singers of the past 30 years. In the Sixties, she was propelled to the highest peaks of popular acclaim with a barrage of hits like "I Never Loved a Man", "Respect" and "Think", collated with many others on 20 Greatest Hits (1987). Her 1968 album, Lady Soul, remains a singularly impressive monument to her greatness, with "Chain of Fools", "People Get Ready" and "A Natural Woman" exemplifying a range and passion that is little short of divine.



Lady Soul: Aretha Franklin

FREE/BAD COMPANY

Obviously a product of the late Sixties blues boom, Free evolved a uniquely arresting style, fusing just about the leanest, most austere rock group sound ever recorded, and playing its uniformly slow material with all the latent power and cool purpose of a stalking cat. Free (1968) is an unspeakable example of their taut machismo-rock, and presaged the commercial success of 1970's Fire and Water with its classic single "All Right Now". Free lived up. But it was her righteous application of the gospel spirit to the more earthbound specifics of soul that made Franklin one of the most influential singers of the past 30 years. In the Sixties, she was propelled to the highest peaks of popular acclaim with a barrage of hits like "I Never Loved a Man", "Respect" and "Think", collated with many others on 20 Greatest Hits (1987). Her 1968 album, Lady Soul, remains a singularly impressive monument to her greatness, with "Chain of Fools", "People Get Ready" and "A Natural Woman" exemplifying a range and passion that is little short of divine.

NEXT WEEK: Peter Gabriel, Marvin Gaye

LINKWORDS ANSWER: The answer to last week's puzzle was INDELICATE. The linkwords were CIDER, TRICE, CRATE, ALTER, TRIAL, ALERT, LARGE, EAGER, ANGER, REIGN, GRIPS.

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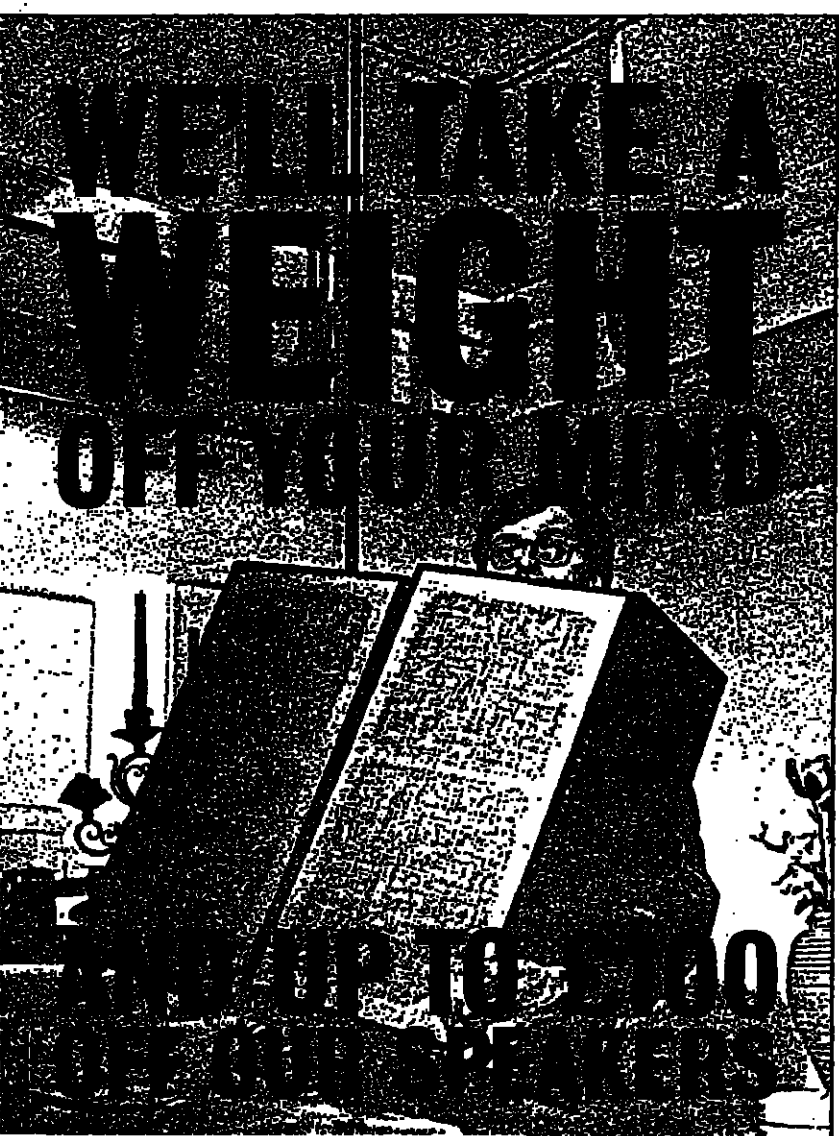
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OUTINGS

Reliving past glories

It seems to me that the great drawback of an historic garden is that, held in a moment of time, it has no future. Following Jekyll's plans is "a continuing education" for Rosamund. "Her planting ideas are so good: it's interesting unraveling them, and identifying and working with the plants." Some



● *The garden at the Manor House, Upton Grey (6m SE of Basingstoke) in Upton Grey village, next to the church) is open to visitors as part of the National Gardens Scheme, May 27, June 10, July 1: 2-5pm. Admission £1, child 50p.*

the classic car calendar. Special features this year include the sixth anniversary celebrations of the 10,000-strong MG Car Club. The Great and West Halls, Alexandra Palace, Wood Green, London N22 (01-365

REF ID: A66084

THE TIMES **Which?** CONSUMER REPORT

Report by Nicole Swengley

The best line in washing

There are more than 200 different washing machines in the shops to choose from, costing anywhere between £200 and £1,250. The best way to narrow selection is to decide which programmes and features will be most useful to you, as well as considering the size and style of machine, spinning performance, running costs, convenience and, these days, the environmental factors. *Which?* magazine has tested most of the machines available and its recommendations are given below in the "Buying Guide".

CHOOSING A WASHING MACHINE

● **Standard wash programmes.** Most machine-washable clothes have care labels which indicate the wash temperature and the wash action recommended. All the machines tested claim to have programmes which will wash at the correct temperatures for most things. Some machines display the care symbols on the front panel.

● **Flexibility.** Some machines have their main programmes and temperatures pre-set, so you need only to set one control (although there may be a separate economy button). With others, you set the programme and temperature separately. These may be slightly more complicated but offer greater flexibility.

Similarly, some machines have a pre-wash facility, which is built in to certain programmes, while others have pre-wash as a separate option. This provides more flexibility but could be inconvenient if it means having to set the main programme. Some machines tested have both types.

● **Built-in delay timers.** Timers allow you to use the machine at night without having to add a time-switch — useful if you have an Economy 7 electricity meter. If a computerized machine does not have a built-in timer it is unlikely that it can be used with an independent time-switch. This is because the machine cannot be programmed until the electricity supply is connected — after the time-switch has operated.

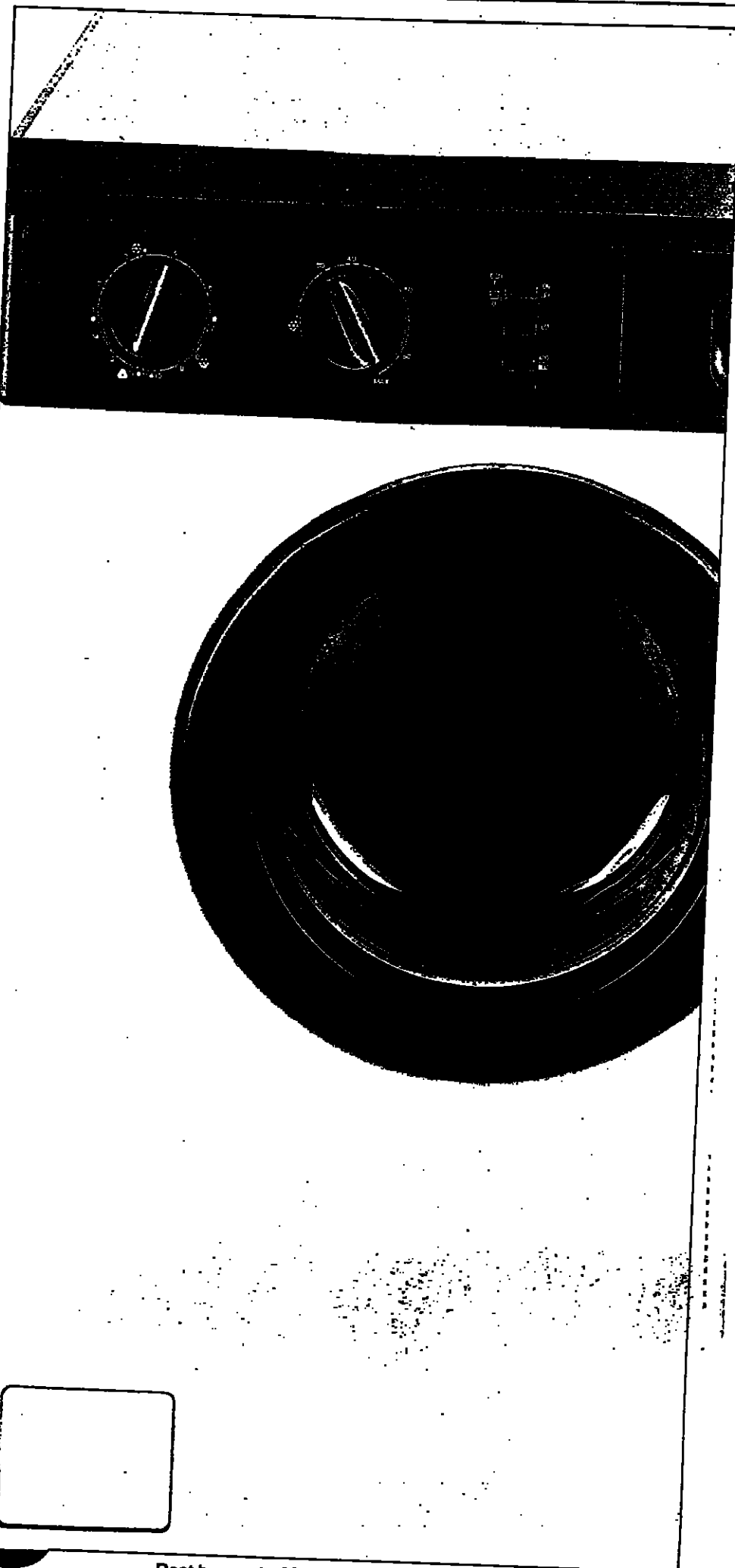
● **Economy programmes.** These are available on most

machines. The most common is half-load (or reduced load), which reduces the amount of water and detergent needed when you want to wash only a few things. But most "half-loads" do not really halve the amounts of water, detergent or electricity used, compared with the machine's full load, so doing two half-loads is not as economical as waiting until you can tackle a full load.

Reduced temperature washes are useful for slightly soiled clothes, or easy-care fabrics, and with biological detergents. Generally, they still use about the same amount of water as the main programme; savings are made because they use less electricity. A quick-wash programme may be useful for freshening up a lightly soiled load in about half an hour.

● **Wool programme.** All but two machines tested by *Which?* have a wool programme, approved by the International Wool Secretariat, for washing woollens labelled "Machine washable". The Bendix Super Compact and the Fagor F9800 washer-drier are unsuitable for washing wool.

● **Other wash programmes.** "Multifabric" programmes allow you to mix different fabric types in the wash. It sounds useful but it is a long, low-temperature soak, generally taking four to five hours. "Drain" means you can drain the water out without spinning if you want to drip-dry washing. "Cold wash" means that the machine takes in only cold water. "No heater" means washing at the temperature of incoming water.



Best buy up to £250: Indesit 823, £250



Best buy up to £350: Hotpoint Electronic 800 De Luxe 9524, £300

SPIN SPEEDS

The faster a machine spins, the drier your washing will be. This cuts drying time and, if you have a tumble drier, your running costs. For example, a 4kg (8½lb) load of mixed cottons spun in a 1,000 rev/min machine takes about an hour to tumble dry at a cost of about 13p. The time and cost would double if the same load were spun in a 500 rev/min washing machine.

The difference between 850 and 1,100 rev/min is not so crucial. Some machines which claim upwards of 1,000 rev/min maximum spin speed never spin that quickly when loaded, or do not spin at that speed for very long, and some machines with lower claimed spin speeds spin for longer.

Delicate and easy-care fabrics do not require a roaring spin which will wring them up. With most fast-spin machines, either there is a lower spin-speed option button or a suitable speed will be selected automatically at the end of each programme. Some machines have a variable spin-speed control.

Most of the tested machines have "spin delay" (sometimes called "rinse hold"), which lets the washing sit in the last rinse water rather than settle into creases after spinning.

RUNNING COSTS

● **Detergent.** Some machines use detergent more efficiently than others, either by the way they circulate the wash water or by valves on the drainage system. Others pre-fill the machine with some water before the detergent is washed from the dispenser, so not much gets away. Some machines allow 25 per cent or more of the detergent to drop unused through the drum.

● **Electricity.** Assuming you wash one hot cotton load and one synthetic washes a week, the cost would be between £4 and £7 a quarter if you do full loads using full-price electricity, whether you have a hot-and-cold fill machine or a cold-fill only.

In practice, many people do not pay this much. If you have an Economy 7 meter and you use your machine only during the cheap-rate period, your running costs would be about third of these figures.

● **Gas or oil cost less to heat water than full-price electricity, reducing the expense a little for hot-and-cold fill. But, unless you are using Economy, the machine still needs some full-price electricity for**

its pump and motor and to get the wash water hotter than that in your hot taps.

● **Water.** All washing machines use a lot of water, but there are big differences between models. The best machines, which use less than 70 litres (15.5 gallons) of water per wash would, on current average water charges, cost no more than around £3.50 per quarter (assuming five washes a week). Machines which use more than 100 litres per wash will cost upward of £6.

THINKING GREEN

Amid the furore over machines designated "green", *Which?* says that some manufacturers have for many years been making washing machines with energy-saving and water-saving features.

The best way to save energy is to use the lower temperature programmes, particularly when your washing is not that dirty. Choosing a half-load option helps, but waiting to wash a full load is better.

MACHINE TYPES

● **Front-loaders.** If space is not a problem, you will probably want a full-size front-loading machine. These take 4kg to 5kg (8½-11lb) of mixed cottons in the maximum load and are designed with standard 60cm-width kitchen units in mind. Most are around 85cm high to fit neatly under worktops. If you want the front to fit flush with your unit doors, check the space pipework takes up at the back. Front loaders start at around £200. Typically, at the

lowest end of the price range, the spin speed is 800 rev/min with few features and little choice of programmes. For around £250 to £350, you will get more choice in features and more flexible programming options as well as a choice of machines with good spinning performance.

Machines costing between £350 and £450 can offer very good all-round performance. But paying this much does not necessarily guarantee top performance, since some models merely offer a hi-tech appearance, flashing lights and programmes you will not often use for the extra cost. Most of the machines described as being "environmentally aware" cost more than £400.

● **Top-loaders.** It might be worth considering one of these if you find it awkward to bend to use a front-loader. And if space is tight, you may prefer a drum-type top-loader, which is usually 15cm to 20cm narrower than full-size front-loaders. These take the same maximum load as front-loaders and work in a similar way. You cannot use a top-loader under the work surface and, with heights of 88cm to 90cm, you may not be able to fit one under it. But, assuming the hoses are long enough, you could roll it out to use. Or you could fit one in a corner.

Top-loaders start at around £370, but you can expect to pay more than £400 for a maximum spin speed of 1,000 rev/min or more.

● **Compacts.** Front-loaders are about three-quarters the size of a full-size machine and take about half the usual maximum load. They wash

satisfactorily but have low maximum spin speeds, leaving the washing feeling quite wet. The top-loading AEG 280 Digitronic is smaller than most top-loaders but it will still take 4.5kg (10lb) in its maximum load.

● **Washer-driers.** These wash and tumble dry in one drum, but most will dry only about half of their maximum wash load at one time. This usually means you have to take some of the washing out between washing and drying, though some will take 3kg (6.6lb) or so right through both cycles without stopping.

Most of them are condenser driers: they use cold water from your house supply to cool the warm, moist air so that it condenses and can be drained away. If you are worried about the amount of water they use for this process you could consider an air-venting model. These blow the warm moist air out of the machine. To avoid condensation indoors, you should use a vent hose to direct this air outside through a window, or a permanently installed vent in the wall.

RELIABILITY

Which? monitored the breakdowns and servicing records of machines which were at least three years old but bought within the past five years. Zanussi has been most reliable on average. Ariston, Candy, Hotpoint, Indesit, Philips and Servis were below average. AEG, Bendix, Electra and Hoover machines were not significantly different from the average. Most repairs arrived within three days. The Hotpoint repairs responded within two days. Most Indesit repairs finished the job on the spot. Most of the other manufacturers' repairs needed another day or two to fetch parts or equipment. Bendix took four days, on average, and the AEG repairs took seven days.

Which? This article is based on a test report in the January issue of *Which?* an independent monthly magazine available only on subscription. It tests and reports on a variety of services, including money, household appliances and other equipment, motoring, food and health and consumer rights. To find out more about *Which?* — including details of how you can get the magazine free for three months — please write to Dept T, FREEPOST, Herford SG14 1YB or telephone free on 0800 252 100.

BUYING GUIDE

Full-size front-loading machines:

BEST BUYS in the £200-£250 range: Indesit 823, £250. The £250-£350 range: Hotpoint Electronic 800 De Luxe 9524, £300. The Candy D4-104X, £280, did not perform quite as well on the synthetic washing programme but is £20 cheaper. The Electrolux WH828 Electronic, £340, performs well but is more expensive.

GOOD VALUE in the £350-£450 range: If you want a computerized machine, the Hotpoint Microtronic 1000 De Luxe 9554, £390, performs well. The Zanussi FJ1023, £410, performs very well all round. The Hotpoint Electronic 8544, £370, with a spin speed of 1000 rev/min is similar to the recommended 9554 but has more programmes so may be worth considering.

GOOD BUT PRICEY: The AEG Lavamat 981 Sensortronic, £450, performs very well all round.

Full-size top-loading:

The Philips Simstar 850 T12 AWG090, £370, is worth considering if you want a top-loader.

Compact:

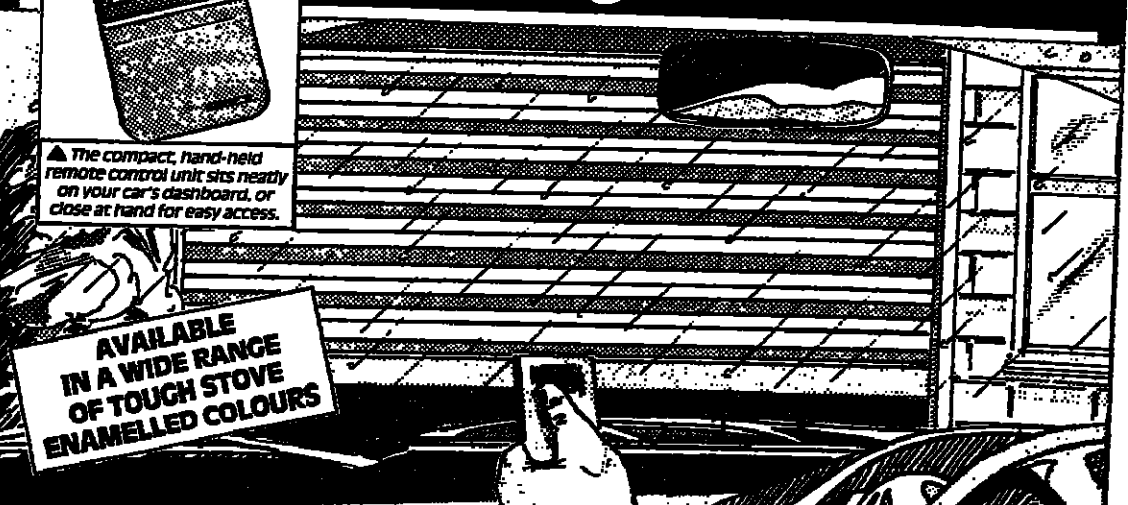
The Candy Aquamatic 3, £280, is worth considering if you want a compact front-loader.

Washer-driers:

The Hoover AB548/50, £380, is worth considering if you want an air-vented washer-drier.

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THE WEEK AHEAD



Good luck: Joan Carol Williams

THEATRE

BIRTHS, MARRIAGES AND DEATHS: World premiere of Nigel Baldwin's play about a reunion of former student journalists. Nuffield, Southampton (0703 671771). Opens Thurs.

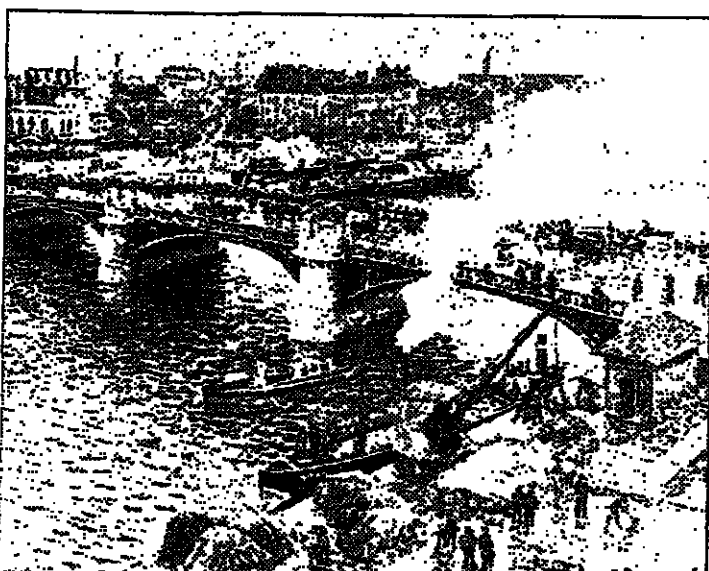
JEFFREY BERNARD IS UNWELL: Tom Conti takes over from Peter O'Toole as the bibulous columnist Apollo. Shaftesbury Avenue, London W1 (01-437 2663). From Mon.

MY NAME, SHALL I TELL YOU MY NAME: Christina Reid's tale of love between a young girl and her grandfather. Young Vic Studio, 66 The Cut, London SE1 (01-928 6363). Previews Tues, Wed. Opens Thurs.

SUNDAY IN THE PARK WITH GEORGE: UK premiere of Stephen Sondheim's James Lapine musical. Lyttelton, National Theatre, South Bank, London SE1 (01-928 2252). Previews from today. Opens Mar 15.

When a new theatre is to be opened the first hurdle is to make sure that the builders are out before the audience arrives. The West Yorkshire Playhouse in Leeds can be said to have cleared this one, because the Quarry Theatre (ceremonially opening next Thursday) is ready and waiting, even though work still continues on the smaller Courtyard Theatre, which is not due to be opened until May. The second hurdle is to make sure that there is drink in the bar. But the third and crucial hurdle is to come up with a production that so delights its first audiences that word spreads quickly and establishes the new theatre as a good thing. Jude Kelly, the artistic director, has made an inspired choice for her opening production in reviving *Wild Oats* by Sheridan's contemporary, John O'Keefe. This sprightly Regency comedy is packed with mistaken identities, heroes stolen in childhood, evicting landlords and a troupe of travelling players. Reece Dinsdale and Sam Kelly play Rover and his servant John Dory in roles reminiscent of the master and servant parts they play in the television series *Haggard*. Among the female cast members are Helen Schlesinger and Joan Carol Williams. Good luck to them all. *Wild Oats*, West Yorkshire Playhouse, Quarry Hill Mount, Leeds. (0532 442111). Preview Wednesday. Opens Thursday.

Jeremy Kingston



Unsentimental: Pissarro's "Boiledieu, Rome, damp weather", 1896

GALLERIES

DAVID LEE

LUCY JONES: Vivid, expressionist paintings and drawings of city scenes, plus a remarkable and forthright series of self-portraits. Drumcroom Art Centre, Wigan (0542 321840). From Mon.

FAKE? THE ART OF DECEPTION: A show about fake paintings and sculptures from all periods

including wrong Rembrandts and Hockneys and "copies" by Tom Keating. British Museum, London WC1 (01-636 1555). From Fri.

Camille Pissarro (1831-1903) is a more complex artistic personality than a superficial view of his impressionist landscapes, cityscapes and figure studies would suggest. Politically an anarchist and a lucid theorist about the new demands placed on painting in the photographic age, his painting is much more than a pretty demonstration of an innovative technique. A new exhibition featuring more than 50 paintings, and including many drawings, attempts to link the work more closely than before to his personality and beliefs. With few breaks, however, were numerous. Pissarro could observe, experience and paint rural life without sentimentality. It also introduced him to the progressive industrialization of France. Pissarro included in his pictures the chimney stacks, telegraph wires and steam trains that some of his contemporaries left out as being incompatible with their bucolic visions. Camille Pissarro: Impressionism, Landscape and Rural Labour opens on Thursday at Birmingham City Museum and Art Gallery (021 2352834). Then May 4-June 17, The Burrell Collection, Glasgow.

Winning heroine: Kathleen Turner teams up with Michael Douglas again for US hit *The War of the Roses*

Hollywood snapped up the rights to Warren Alder's novel *The War of the Roses* in the year of publication, 1980, though the property then became stalled. No one seemed interested in a film that began as a romantic comedy about a perfect couple and ended in the realms of the black farce with the squabbling partners, facing divorce, venting their fury by destroying each other's possessions. By 1985, the project had landed with the producer James Brooks, riding high after *Terms of Endearment*; production designer Polly Platt was initially pencilled in as director. Then the winning team arrived. Michael Douglas and Kathleen Douglas, a popular couple after

Romancing the Stone and its sequel, signed on as Barbara and Oliver Rose: players well-equipped to handle the film's volatile mixture of glamour, vindictiveness and physical thrills. The project obviously required a director with a hugely warped sense of humour. Who better, then, than Danny DeVito, pugnascent actor and perpetrator of *Throw Momma From the Train*? (He also appears as Douglas's divorce lawyer.) This exhausting comic version of marital hell has been a huge box-office hit in America: so much for President Bush's pre-election pledge to promote "family values". Odeon Leicester Square (01-930 6111), from Friday, certificate 15.

SHADOW MAKERS (12): Roland Joffé's first film since *The Mission* - a sober, compelling account of scientist J. Robert Oppenheimer (Dwight Schultz) and his colleagues, perfecting the first atomic bomb. Paul Newman

towers on the sidelines as the Pentagon big-shot cracks the whip. Empire (01-437 1234). From Fri.

THE FABULOUS BAKER BOYS (15): A blonde sexy singer causes fireworks when she joins up with

two cocktail pianists. Great fun, with subtle playing from Michelle Pfeiffer, Jeff and Beau Bridges, and accomplished work from writer-director Steve Kloves. Odeon Haymarket (01-639 7697). From Fri.

CINEMA

GEOFF BROWN

DANCE

RAMBERT DANCE COMPANY: Three week London season opens with special children's gala (Tues); then Wed-Sat Mar 10 the London premiere of Merce Cunningham's *Doubles* with Ashley Page's *Soldier*. Sadler's Wells (01-278 8916).

ROYAL BALLET: Kenneth MacMillan's new *Prince of the Pagodas* twice today at Birmingham Hippodrome (021 622 7488); then Thurs-Sat Mar 10 at the Palace, Manchester (061-236 9922).

LONDON CONTEMPORARY DANCE THEATRE: Premieres by Dan Waggoner (Mon, Tues) and Kenneth Thorp (Tues matinee) at Dergate, Northampton (0804 24811).

ENGLISH NATIONAL BALLET: Tour of small theatres with programme by Paul Taylor, August Bournonville, Jose Limon and others commences at Northcott Theatre, Exeter (0392-54853) today. Wyvern Theatre, Swindon (0793 524481), Mon, Tues, and Festival Theatre, Malvern (0684-892277), Fri and Sat Mar 10.

ROCK

THE HOUSE OF LOVE: Nonpareil cult heroes of the indie scene now elevated to the major league. SFX, Dublin (0001 740550) tonight; Guildhall, Southampton (0703 632801) Mon; then Folkestone, Cardiff, and Royal Albert Hall (Fri).

EVERYTHING BUT THE GIRL: Shrinking violets Ben Watt and Tracey Thorn whose music has recently acquired a huge, American super club sound. Royal Centre, Nottingham (0602 483505) tomorrow; Colston Hall, Bristol (0272 262957) Mon; then Guildford and Harrogate.

WILL DOWNING: Full-throated soul man best known for his manicured rendering of "A Love Supreme". St David's Hall, Cardiff (0222 371236) tonight; Mail, Stockton (0842 611082) tomorrow; then Cambridge, Manchester and Hammersmith Odeon (Thurs).

THE MISSION: Wayne Hussey and crew still trying to recreate the zeitgeist of the pre-punk 1970s. Royal Court, Liverpool (051 709 4321) tomorrow; then Dublin, Belfast and Glasgow.

OPERA

ROYAL OPERA HOUSE: Götz Friedrich's new production of Strauss' *Elektra* opens tonight at 8pm (also Wed) with Sir Georg Solti conducting a cast led by Eva Marton singing the title role for the first time at Covent Garden. Covent Garden, London WC2 (01-240 1068).

ENGLISH NATIONAL OPERA: Revivals of *The Mikado* and *La Traviata* alternate throughout this month: tonight, Tues and Fri, Helen Field leads the Verdi cast; on Wed, Thurs and Sat Mar 10, Jonathan Miller's G & S production continues. Coliseum, St Martin's Lane, London WC2 (01-536 3161).

WELSH NATIONAL OPERA: New production of *Der Rosenkavalier* by Wolfgang Weiler opens in Cardiff tonight (also Tues). New Theatre, Cardiff (0222 394844).

OPERA NORTHERN IRELAND: Open their first ever spring season with a new production of *Die Fledermaus*. Grand Opera House, Belfast (0232 240411).

CONCERTS

MELOS 25th: The Melos Quartet celebrates its 25th anniversary by playing Schubert's Quartet D 810 "Death and the Maiden", then Schubert's Quartet D 958, with Mstislav Rostropovich (cello). Royal Festival Hall, South Bank, London SE1 (01-928 8800). Mon.

NEW SCHNITTKE: Yuri Beshmet conducts and solos in the UK premiere of Schnittke's Monologue for Viola and Strings, to which are added his Concerto Grosso No. 1, Shostakovich's Prelude and Scherzo Op. 11 and Matias's orchestration of Schubert's Quartet D 810 "Death and the Maiden". Barbican Centre, Silk Street, London EC2 (01-636 8891). Mon.

THREE QUARTETS: The Yease Quartet performs Mozart's Quartet K 458 "The Hunt", Beethoven's Quartet Op. 59 No. 2 and Weber's Quartet Op. 28. Wigmore Hall, 36, Wigmore Street, London W1 (01-935 2141). Wed.

ITALIAN SONGS: Lydia Russell (soprano) and Richard Jackson (baritone), with Iain Burnside at the piano, sing Hugo Wolf's complete *Lieder*. St John's Smith Square, London SW1 (01-222 1061). Thurs.

RATTLE/CSSO: The City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra is conducted by Simon Rattle in Bach's Concerto for Two Violins, Beethoven's Symphony No. 7, Schoenberg's *Verklärte Nacht* and Weber's *Five Pieces* Op. 10. Town Hall, Birmingham (021-236 3888). Thurs.

ROSTROPOVICH/LSO: Mstislav Rostropovich conducts the LSO in Berlioz's *La Cenerentola* Overture, Schnittke's Viola Concerto and Shostakovich's Symphony No. 3. Barbican Centre, Thurs.

PHOTOGRAPHY

IN OUR TIME: Blockbuster exhibition by members of the legendary photographic agency, Magnum, which charts the course of the world through wars, famines, pestilence and politics, and disasters both man-made and natural. 1947 to the present day. Hayward Gallery, South Bank Centre, London, SE1. (01-521 0879). From Thurs.

ELLIOTT ERWITT: A good counterpoint to the above from Magnum photographer Erwit, whose view of life is nearly always spiced with a delicious and delicate touch of humour. Hamiltons Gallery, 13 Carlos Place, London, W1 (01-499 9493). From Wed.

BROADCASTING

CHANCER: Shades of *Capital City* and *Howard's Way* as a young city slicker (Clive Owen) is called in to rescue an ailing sports car company. Benjamin Whitrow and Leslie Phillips lend sturdy support. ITV, Tues, 8-10pm.

THE CHURCHILL YEARS: Six turning-points from the career of Winston Churchill, dramatized by David Wheeler and with Daniel Massey doubling as Winston and his formidable father Lord Randolph Churchill. Radio 4, Wed, 11-11.47am.

HIGH MOON: Gary Cooper and Grace Kelly in Fred Zinnemann's taut Western about a town marshal abandoned by the community and forced to face the villains alone. Preceded (8.30pm) by an Arena profile of Zinnemann, who gave a first screen chance to Marlon Brando, Montgomery Clift and Meryl Streep. BBC2, Fri, 11.20pm-12.45am.



In fine fettle: the irrepressible Ella Fitzgerald heads back to London

CLIVE DAVIS

HARRY EDISON: One of the trumpet greats, the elegant Basile soloist plays the evergreens with the Tony Kinsey Trio. Piazza Express, London W1 (01-439 8722). Wed-Sat.

EDDIE HARRIS: The Chicago-born tenor player, an early pioneer of fusion music, now gravitating back towards conventional pop.

The glitzy Annie Leibovitz shots which graced a certain colour supplement last Sunday showed that Ella Fitzgerald appears to be back to full fitness after serious illness. Audiences will have a chance to see for themselves this week when she makes her return to the London stage, backed by the Count Basie Orchestra. Her three concerts (Grosvenor House, Mon; Royal Albert Hall, Wed, Thurs) are part of the launch celebrations for Jazz FM, which, as everyone must know by now, goes on air in the Greater London region tomorrow as the first non-pirate jazz radio station in the UK. Ella's appearance at the Grosvenor House is an exclusive affair - tickets for the gala dinner cost a mere £150. It is worth remembering, however, that these are likely to be her farewell performances in this country. The Basie orchestra itself has soldiered on since the death of its leader six years ago. Now under the direction of the tenor player Frank Foster, the band boasts few legendary names but can still summon up the old ghosts in concert. Grosvenor House, London W1 (info 01-370 4515) Monday; Royal Albert Hall, London SW7 (01-589 8212/497-9977/494 3161). Wednesday, Thursday.

Bass Clef, London N1 (01-729 2476). Tues-Thurs.

HILTON RUZZ: The compelling Latin jazz pianist rounds off his tour featuring material from the recent *Novus LP*. St. Albans Hall, Nottingham (0602 415741) tomorrow; then Llantwit Major, Brighton, Coventry, and Birmingham.

TAM WHITE: A rocking Tom Watts sound-alike. Ronnie Scott's Club, London W1 (01-439 0747). Mon-Sat.

BRIDGE

Malcolm Forbes died suddenly last Saturday at his New Jersey home. The day before, at his London address, he had been the gracious and genial host, and a member of the team, when Corporate America played bridge against peers and MPs.

The businessmen beat the Commons team, captained by Sir Peter Emery, by a single International Match Point, but lost to the Lords, captained by the Duke of Atholl, by 16.

The occasion of Mr Forbes's final bridge game was in every way suited to the man. As host, as player, and just by being his buoyant self, he was the central figure in a jovial scene.

In the first match Mr Forbes, partnered by Mr Laurence Tisch, president of CBS, defended perfectly in a deal vital to their team's narrow win.

Dealer East. East-West vulnerable.

W	N	E	S
10985	10985	10985	10985
10985	10985	10985	10985
10985	10985	10985	10985
10985	10985	10985	10985
10985	10985	10985	10985
10985	10985	10985	10985
10985	10985	10985	10985

At two diamonds, the heart opening was taken and the 10 of trumps led, losing to West's queen. Resisting the temptation to attack spades, Mr Forbes switched to the 9 of clubs, which ran to South's queen. The king of diamonds came back and East was in.

Five clubs was an imaginative bid and with a little luck might have been made. However, the key cards lay badly, and the issue was between one down or two; not a disaster, as opponents can make 11 tricks in hearts.

North led the 3 of spades and South cashed two tricks in the suit. North throwing the 8 of hearts. What now?

South wanted to play another spade, to kill a winner, but thought it safer to make sure of three tricks. So he led a heart. North won but West made the rest, discarding two diamonds on dummy's spades. Thus he was set one trick for the loss of 200 points.

If South leads the king of hearts instead of a low heart to his partner's ace, he can next play a spade, forcing West to ruff. Now West must lose a diamond for a penalty of 500.

Before claiming a berth on the Commons team - if you made the winning play - remember that unless already qualified, you first have to get yourself elected to the House.

The prime mover in arranging this match, which benefited ISS (International Social Service), was Kathie Wei, who earlier had interviewed Mr Forbes on behalf of the American Contract Bridge League.

"Bridge," said Mr Forbes, "is one of the really great pleasures of life, on a par with motor cycles, balloons and editorials. If heaven is heaven, there's certainly bridge."

Let's hope he was right.

Albert Dormer

CHESS

Next week the Candidates final match between the former world champion Anatoly Karpov (USSR) and the Dutch Grandmaster Jan Timman will start in Kuala Lumpur, the capital of Malaysia. It will be remembered that this match, the winner of which will challenge Karpov for the world title, was originally planned for London, organized by the British Chess Federation. Unfortunately, Pilkington Glass, the prospective sponsors, withdrew their support. *The Times* will carry the moves and results of every game.

Karpov, meanwhile, has been sharpening his weapons for any prospective challenge by participating in the top notch category 16 tournament in the Spanish town of Linares. The final round is played today and this week's game between the world champion and the highest rated British Grandmaster was one of the most exciting in the early rounds.

White: Garry Kasparov; Black: Nigel Short. English Opening, Feb 19, Linares.

1 e4 e5 2 Nc3 Nc6 3 g3 g6 4 Bg2 Bg7 5 Bc2 b5 6 a4 a5 7 Ng2 Qd7 8 Nd5

Preferable is 8 Be3.

10 Na3 Qc3 11 0-0

White should play 11 Bxh3 Qxh3 12 d5.

After the text Black can start a dangerous attack.

11... Bxg2 12 Kxg2 end4 13 Nxd4 b6 14 a4 Nb6

A bold decision, declaring total war against the White king. Instead 15...0-0 would be quite level. Now a fierce race

develops on opposite wings.

16 a5 b4 17 a6 b5 18 Nb5 f5g 19 f5g 16 20 c5

An inspired sacrifice which Kasparov claimed was necessary to maintain fighting chances. It is a measure of the extreme difficulty of this game that when he played the sacrifice Kasparov had a mere six minutes left to complete his next 20 moves in order to avoid losing by time forfeit.

20... dxc5 21 cxd5 Qxd5 22 Qf7.

22 Rd1 Qd8 23 Nd4 Rd21 24 Qd3 Nf7 25 Nd5 g5 26 cxd5 Qd8 27 Rd3 Nd5

Black resigns.

White plays and wins.

Send your answer on a postcard with your name and address to: *The Times* Chess Competition, The Times, 1, Pall Mall, London W1. The first three correct answers drawn on Thursday next week will win a £1000 prize. The winning move will be printed in *The Times* next morning.

Solution to yesterday's position: 1 Nf7+ g5 2 Nf6 3 Qc7 4 Rf1 Rf7 5 Rf2 6 Rf3 7 Rf4 8 Rf5 9 Rf6 10 Rf7 11 Rf8 12 Rf9 13 Rf10 14 Rf11 15 Rf12 16 Rf13 17 Rf14 18 Rf15 19 Rf16 20 Rf17 21 Rf18 22 Rf19 23 Rf20 24 Rf21 25 Rf22 26 Rf23 27 Rf24 28 Rf25 29 Rf26 30 Rf27 31 Rf28 32 Rf29 33 Rf30 34 Rf31 35 Rf32 36 Rf33 37 Rf34 38 Rf35 39 Rf36 40 Rf37 41 Rf38 42 Rf39 43 Rf40 44 Rf41 45 Rf42 46 Rf43 47 Rf44 48 Rf45 49 Rf46 50 Rf47 51 Rf48 52 Rf49 53 Rf50 54 Rf51 55 Rf52 56 Rf53 57 Rf54 58 Rf55 59 Rf56 60 Rf57 61 Rf58 62 Rf59 63 Rf60 64 Rf61 65 Rf62 66 Rf63 67 Rf64 68 Rf65 69 Rf66 70 Rf67 71 Rf68 72 Rf69 73 Rf70 74 Rf71 75 Rf72 76 Rf73 77 Rf74 78 Rf75 79 Rf76 80 Rf77 81 Rf78 82 Rf79 83 Rf80 84 Rf81 85 Rf82 86 Rf83 87 Rf84 88 Rf85 89 Rf86 90 Rf87 91 Rf88 92 Rf89 93 Rf90 94 Rf91 95 Rf92 96 Rf93 97 Rf94 98 Rf95 99 Rf96 100 Rf97 101 Rf98 102 Rf99 103 Rf100 104 Rf101 105 Rf102 106 Rf103 107 Rf104 108 Rf105 109 Rf106 110 Rf107 111 Rf108 112 Rf109 113 Rf110 114 Rf111 115 Rf112 116 Rf113 117 Rf114 118 Rf115 119 Rf116 120 Rf117 121 Rf118 122 Rf119 123 Rf120 124 Rf121 125 Rf122 126 Rf123 127 Rf124 128 Rf125 129 Rf126 130 Rf127 131 Rf128 132 Rf129 133 Rf130 134 Rf131 135 Rf132 136 Rf133 137 Rf134 138 Rf135 139 Rf136 140 Rf137 141 Rf138 142 Rf139 143 Rf140 144 Rf141 145 Rf142 146 Rf143 147 Rf144 148 Rf145 149 Rf146 150 Rf147 151 Rf148 152 Rf149 153 Rf150 154 Rf151 155 Rf152 156 Rf153 157 Rf154 158 Rf155 159 Rf156 160 Rf157 161 Rf158 162 Rf159 163 Rf160 164 Rf161 165 Rf162 166 Rf163 167 Rf164 168 Rf165 169 Rf166 170 Rf167 171 Rf168 172 Rf169 173 Rf170 174 Rf171 175 Rf172 176 Rf173 177 Rf174 178 Rf175 179 Rf176 180 Rf177 181 Rf178 182 Rf179 183 Rf180 184 Rf181 185 Rf182 186 Rf183 187 Rf184 188 Rf185 189 Rf186 190 Rf187 191 Rf188 192 Rf189 193 Rf190 194 Rf191 195 Rf192 196 Rf193 197 Rf194 198 Rf195 199 Rf196 200 Rf197 201 Rf198 202 Rf199 203 Rf200 204 Rf201 205 Rf202 206 Rf203 207 Rf204 208 Rf205 209 Rf206 210 Rf207 211 Rf208 212 Rf209 213 Rf210 214 Rf211 215 Rf212 216 Rf213 217 Rf214 218 Rf215 219 Rf216 220 Rf217 221 Rf218 222 Rf219 223 Rf220 224 Rf221 225 Rf222 226 Rf223 227 Rf224 228 Rf225 229 Rf226 230 Rf227 231 Rf228 232 Rf229 233 Rf230 234 Rf231 235 Rf232 236 Rf233 237 Rf234 238 Rf235 239 Rf236 240 Rf237 241 Rf238 242 Rf239 243 Rf240 244 Rf241 245 Rf242 246 Rf243 247 Rf244 248 Rf245 249 Rf246 250 Rf247 251 Rf248 252 Rf249 253 Rf250 254 Rf251 255 Rf252 256 Rf253 257 Rf254 258 Rf255 259 Rf256 260 Rf257 261 Rf258 262 Rf259 263 Rf260 264 Rf261 265 Rf262 266 Rf263 267 Rf264 268 Rf265 269 Rf266 270 Rf267 271 Rf268 272 Rf269 273 Rf270 274 Rf271 275 Rf272 276 Rf273 277 Rf274 278 Rf275 279 Rf276 280 Rf277 281 Rf278 282 Rf279 283 Rf280 284 Rf281 285 Rf282 286 Rf283 287 Rf284 288 Rf285 289 Rf286 290 Rf287 291 Rf288 292 Rf289 293 Rf290 294 Rf291 295 Rf292 296 Rf293 297 Rf294 298 Rf295 299 Rf296 300 Rf297 301 Rf298 302 Rf299 303 Rf300 304 Rf301 305 Rf302 306 Rf303 307 Rf304 308 Rf305 309 Rf306 310 Rf307 311 Rf308 312 Rf309 313 Rf310 314 Rf311 315 Rf312 316 Rf313 317 Rf314 318 Rf315 319 Rf316 320 Rf317 321 Rf318 322 Rf319 323 Rf320 324 Rf321 325 Rf322 326 Rf323 327 Rf324 328 Rf325 329 Rf326 330 Rf327 331 Rf328 332 Rf329 333 Rf330 334 Rf331 335 Rf332 336 Rf333 337 Rf334 338 Rf335 339 Rf336 340 Rf337 341 Rf338 342 Rf339 343 Rf340 344 Rf341 345 Rf342 346 Rf343 347 Rf344 348 Rf345 349 Rf346 350 Rf347 351 Rf348 352 Rf349 353 Rf350 354 Rf351 355 Rf352 356 Rf353 357 Rf354 358 Rf355 359 Rf356 360 Rf357 361 Rf358 362 Rf359 363 Rf360 364 Rf361 365 Rf362 366 Rf363 367 Rf364 368 Rf365 369 Rf366 370 Rf367 371 Rf368 372 Rf369 373 Rf370 374 Rf371 375 Rf372 376 Rf373 377 Rf374 378 Rf375 379 Rf376 380 Rf377 381 Rf378 382 Rf379 383 Rf380 384 Rf381 385 Rf382 386 Rf383 387 Rf384 388 Rf385 389 Rf386 390 Rf387 391 Rf388 392 Rf389 3

Marshall the key to West Indian reaction

From Alan Lee
Cricket Correspondent
Kingston, Jamaica

After the revolution comes the reckoning. The established order has been spectacularly overturned in one of cricket's more surprising weeks, but even the conquering England side, justly basking in imagined glory, must know that power does not change hands without dispute.

If they are entitled to fear with justification, England have already succeeded where many previous touring sides have failed, obliging West Indies to analyse what they had come to take for granted. When one has exhausted all the accolades for England's cricket during the first Test, giving due credit to Gooch's captaincy, Lamb's batting and the rare discipline of the four bowlers, it has to be admitted that something went very wrong with West Indies.

Whether it was arrogance, complacency or simply a con-

stant lapse, this was a great team playing unaccountably poorly. It goes without saying that they are capable of very much better but specific areas of their game must be causing acute anxiety.

In all their years of dominating world cricket, West Indies' game plan has assumed certain dependable factors. They have had the best opening pair in Greenidge and Haynes, they have had pace, quality

triumphant players back into the nets with the exhortation to forget yesterday's news and concentrate only on tomorrow.

"The less experienced players become the longer it takes them to learn that what is done is done," Stewart said. "It takes them some while to come down to earth."

"We told them when the Test ended to make the most of the moment and enjoy it. It was a great experience for us

all but that was yesterday. It's history now — the important game is always tomorrow. When you have a bit of success it does wonders for the players but it is vital to keep it going and try to make winning a habit."

To that end, there is no question of England using today's game as a chance to reacquaint Bailey and Medley with match conditions. Indeed, both men must be wondering if, rather than when, they will resume

an active role on this tour.

England, having digested many congratulatory calls and cables yesterday, will revert to their one-day mode, choosing Hemmings instead of Hussain and replacing Malcolm with either DeFreitas or Lewis.

WEST INDIES (captain I V A Richards): G Greenidge, D C Haynes, R B Richardson, G L Hoggins, C A Blair, R L T Arthurson, P J L Dujon, E A Moseley, M D Marshall, C A Watson, I H Bishop, E A E Baptiste.

and openly admits he has little time left at this level but if West Indies are to respond to this unexpected challenge they must have a properly fit and motivated Marshall to help them.

The other critical area is the middle-order batting, already suffering from the absence of Gooch and now confounded by Richardson's insistence on going in as low as No. 6.

Logie has been a thorn in England's side on many occasions, stabilizing his team whenever the cavalier instincts of the top order led them into difficulties. His broken finger will keep him out until the third Test at least and in his absence Richardson has plainly nominated himself as the shepherd of a suddenly vulnerable flock.

Richardson did himself no justice here, playing with scant regard for the circumstances. Best looks short of class if high on determination; Hooper suffers from quite the reverse. There is every danger,

unless the openers last longer than they did here, of Richards strolling out to perform a rescue act, unable to express himself in the way he needs to do.

West Indies have named an unchanged 13 for next week's second Test in Georgetown, Guyana, but two changes to the final team can be anticipated.

David Gower: If I were Vivian Richards, page 37
More cricket 53



TRAVEL

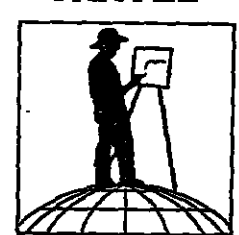
LAST STOP BEFORE ANTARCTICA

Despite its remoteness, Patagonia welcomes tourists. Michael Watkins took a cruise south from Buenos Aires to keep company with many thousands of penguins and to take tea with members of the Welsh community which has survived so far from home since 1865. Page 63

CRICKET LOVER'S GUIDE

England's win in the first Test might encourage more people to take a Caribbean holiday to coincide with the other matches. James Henderson and Brian Viner have visited Guyana and the three islands which host the important games. Page 59

THE ART OF TRAVEL



In our series on activity holidays, Robin Neillands describes the choices available to painters. Packages, including tuition if required, are assessed in this country and in several countries abroad. Page 62

Scots canny over Welsh visit

By David Hands
Rugby Correspondent

Scotland have learnt during the last decade not to fear Cardiff Arms Park. Respect for the Welsh remains but in five visits Scotland have won twice and lost two of the other games by the merest handful of points. Today, though, they approach their third five nations championship match of the season in a state of uncertainty.

That is caused not by their own record this season: unbeaten, though not in the most convincing manner, against Ireland and France. But they, like the rest of us, do not quite know what to expect. "I'm always wary of anyone who says the Welsh are in decline," Ian McGeechan, the Scottish coach, said. "Rugby is such a passion for them. They are not far away from being a very strong side."

Victory in Cardiff for the Scots would create a marvellous atmosphere at Murrayfield on March 17, because they would then play a similarly unbeaten England for the grand slam. But McGeechan is far too canny to think further ahead than four o'clock this afternoon, when a further perspective can be added to the extraordinary events of the last fortnight.

History's successful military commanders have always laid prepared positions to which to retreat in times of stress, and from which they can rally forth refreshed; the Welsh Rugby Union over the last decade has scarcely been likened to a Wellington or Marlborough but, coincidentally, Neath have given them a fall-back position.

It is not so much what Neath's seven players may record in the colours of Wales as the trick which has been worked of creating a

TODAY'S TEAMS AT CARDIFF

Wales				Scotland			
P H Thorburn	15	Full back	A G Hastings	15	(London Scottish)		
M H Hall	14	Right wing	A G Stanger	14	(Newcastle)		
M G Ring	13	Right centre	S Hastings	13	(Glasgow)		
A G Bateman	12	Left centre	S R P Lineen	12	(Boroughmuir)		
A Emyr	11	Left wing	I Tuziolo	11	(Salford)		
D W Evans	10	Stand off	C M Chalmers	10	(Melrose)		
R N Jones	9	Scrum half	G Armstrong	9	(Jed-Forest)		
B R Williams	1	Prop	D M B Sole	1	(Edinburgh Academicals)		
K H Phillips	2	Hooker	K S Milne	2	(Glasgow)		
J D Pugh	3	Prop	A P Burnell	3	(London Scottish)		
M A Porogo	6	Flanker	J Jeffrey	6	(Glasgow)		
P T Davies	4	Lock	C A Gray	4	(Nottingham)		
G O Llewellyn	5	Lock	D F Cronin	5	(Rathfriland)		
R G Collins	7	Flanker	F Calder	7	(Stewart's Melville)		
M A Jones	8	No 8	D B White	8	(London Scottish)		

Reference: R Hourquet (France)
REPLACEMENTS: 16 P W Dods (Glasgow), 17 A C Stewart (Glasgow), 18 C J Bateman (Glasgow), 19 H Williams-Jones (South Wales Police), 20 J J Williams (Cardiff), 21 R Phillips (Neath)

France in Cardiff after a mediocre decade of 18 victories in 40 championship matches. Neath's success as a club unit, allied to the appointment — forced though it was — of their own man, Ron Waldron, as the national coach, have caused a nation to look forward rather than gloomily mourning over the record defeat by England. Perhaps that was inevitable: there was, after all, every reason to forget the past and look to the future. But Neath offer the Welsh a positive element to which to



A word in the ear of the new coach: Waldron (left) listens to what his flank forward, Collins, has to say about today's match

cling, a surging, fluid, hard-headed style which is precisely how the Scots themselves play and will doubtless be given full rein by Rene Hourquet, the French referee. Neither team sets overmuch store by the set scrum, nor does it possess the largest of lineout men. But every player in the team contributes and supports in a method which is like a snoudering fire, no sooner quelled in one place than it bursts out in another.

There is no guarantee that what has worked for Neath will work for Wales, because the method has been diluted by the presence of other players accustomed to other ways. But at this moment the possibility that it will work is enough.

"Look at some of the club games in Wales and the way they play at that level," McGeechan warned. "Seven of them are used to playing together for Neath — they will be doing it in a red shirt rather than a black one."

On the face of it, all the advantages lie with Scotland in this 94th match between the countries, save for the fact that they are away from home — but then, three of this season's six championship matches have been won away. The same team has done duty this year and most of it was together last season, which engenders a mutual confidence and esteem.

Allied to that is the experience garnered by eight of them with the British Isles in Australia; if only there were not this nagging feeling that the Welsh are due to come up trumps today (English cricket, after all, suggests it is a week for surprises). For the first time in a couple of seasons, the back row has a better-balanced look to it, though Mark Perogo, the Llandelli flanker, will have to come swiftly to terms with the pace of international rugby in an area where Finlay Calder, Derek White and John Jeffrey have competed together so many times.

Phil Davies has been moved to lock, though I suspect he may have more rugby knowledge to apply at No. 8 than Mark Jones and his powerful, near-18st frame could be more easily launched into the opposition midfield. It is time, too, for the talented Welsh backs to take a hand, if someone will only give them some decent possession.

Both David Evans and Mark Ring have the ability to weave elusive patterns in attack, and they will want to bring Allan Bateman, the new centre, into the scheme of things as soon as practicable.

They offer more traditional skills of craft than Sean Lineen and Scott Hastings, centres in the modern mould whose greatest strength is, well, their strength. Perhaps it is an omen that the match is sponsored by British Coal: apart from the fact that their product is as black as the jerseys of Neath, they also symbolise a traditional feature of Welsh life. The mines have been closing for some years now but maybe Neath will provide the opening of a new door for Welsh rugby.

More rugby, page 50

Cooke concentrates on English game

By Peter Bills

Jeff Cooke, the England team manager, whose players and the five nations' championship table this morning, is far from convinced that his team's 34-6 annihilation of Wales will extend depression to the valleys.

"I think Scotland will find it very difficult indeed to win in Cardiff," he said. "Wales are

likely to react to that heavy defeat with a great deal of pride and commitment. The presence of a new coach can only enhance those virtues."

"All Wales, and the new man in charge, will be desperately keen to make a big impact. I expect the whole Welsh nation will get behind them."

The power of positive thought, which has been the

foundation of England's resurgence this season, is underlined by Cooke's attitude to Scotland, now the only team between his side and a grand slam.

"We really do not mind whether Scotland win in Cardiff or not. In a sense, it would create a marvellous finale to the championship, with both teams in with an opportunity

of the grand slam.

"But our approach will be the same as in the other games. We have concentrated all through on getting our own game right, working on perfecting the pattern we wish to play. It is no disrespect to the opposition to say that we have worked more on our game than paid undue attention to other teams' plans."

Injuries leave Rangers in no state for a speedy recovery

By Roddy Forsyth

Whatever the state of Rangers' morale after Sunday's defeat Celtic at Parkhead in the Scottish Cup, they will not be the best of physical health day when they attempt to gain their momentum in the senior division with a visit to Dens Park to meet Dundee, bottom club in the table.

Richard Gough has not yet recovered from his foot operation of three weeks ago, while Ark Walters, carried off in the first half against Celtic, is out of contention. Ally Coist has aggravated a gluing groin injury to the point where he is extremely unwell, although he is used in Rangers' squad of 11 for the journey to Dens.

Cup victory last Saturday. If their swelling confidence required any further inflation, it was offered by the Motherwell manager, Tommy McLean, who yesterday identified the Hearts' forward line of John Robertson, John Colquhoun and Scott Crabb as the most effective in Scotland.

McLean said: "We have lost thirteen goals against us this season and all but one of them was scored by these three players. Last week their scoring rate was phenomenal: they had six shots on target and four ended in the net, which is a strike rate of real quality. "We made things hard for ourselves with basic errors in the cup match and we let our supporters down but we have applied ourselves in training this week and now our players have to show that they have the character to overcome setbacks. It is up to them entirely whether they are capable of winning a place in Europe next season."

Hearts will be obliged to do without Gary Mackay, who is suspended, and he will probably be replaced by Sandison, while McCrery is fit to start. Motherwell badly missed Davie Cooper last week and it seems likely that his groin injury will cause him to be absent today.

Motherwell and Celtic are level on the 28-point mark as they compete for the final European place open to Scottish teams. For all their sense of well-being following last week's victory over Rangers, Celtic have a tough home fixture against Dundee United whose record at Parkhead in recent years has been impressive. Inevitably, the thirteen Celtic players who emerged victorious from the Old Firm derby are on duty once again, with Steve Fulton added to the pool.

Christie will run if he wants to

By David Powell

Linford Christie, Britain's fastest ever sprinter, was keeping officials guessing yesterday over whether or not he would appear in the two-day European athletics championships at the Kelvin Hall, Glasgow, this weekend.

Christie, who indicated last weekend that he would not compete, flew in from London last night to say: "If I want to run, I'll run."

Only a handful of British athletes who appeared in the Commonwealth Games a month ago have made themselves available for these championships, the first time they have been held in Britain. Christie said that he and Ron Roddan, his coach, would make their decision this morning.

After competing for Britain against East Germany at the same venue eight days ago, Christie complained of the softness of the track and gave the impression that he had no interest in running either the 60 metres or 200m this weekend. His name was nevertheless

by the British Amateur Athletic Board.

The board declined to select a third athlete at either distance in the hope that Christie, or Marcus Adam, the Commonwealth 200 metres champion, who had given the same impression, would change their minds. Adam confirmed on Thursday night that he would not be taking part.

Les Jones, the Britain team manager, said: "Discussions have been going on with Linford and his coach." "While it might seem unreasonable that a good young prospect, such as Darren Braithwaite, should be kept out to accommodate Christie's whims, Frank Dick, the national director of coaching, said: "We expect a lot of Linford Christie, or anyone at that level who we hang our flag on."

"Linford's comments about the softness of the track might have referred to the fact that he was still feeling his legs when he came back from Auckland."

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Waldron positive of leading Welsh revival

There is a strange compulsion attached to a coach — believing that what he has to impart is eminently worthy of imparting, and that the knowledge is his alone — and the altruism of wanting to share the secret so that others might benefit, too.

If, however, that was all, few coaches would last very long. The national register of coaches would be the thinnest of volumes, success being the ingredient which feeds both qualities. But a coach has to deal with failure which, because he does not play, he takes more deeply and personally than any of the players. What makes it work, then, is the very necessary dash of masochism.

Welsh coaches need such a skilful of the staff nowadays that you wonder why anyone in his right mind should be tempted to the job in the first place. But to take it on in the second place,



Gerald Davies

picking up the pieces left by another, seems to require the instincts of the lemming.

While John Ryan, the former national coach, left disillusioned through one door, Ron Waldron, his successor, popped out just as neatly, smiling, from another. Did he feel awkward taking over in this way?

"No," says Waldron, in his non-sense way. "Think positive. The timing is in my favour. There is no time to worry about the plans for the season's campaign. I can't worry about the players' levels of fitness. I can't have any doubts about the current set-up."

"But what was important was selection, and my approach depended on that. To be chairman,

and to have the casting vote, was necessary. A coach needs to be an honest person and to think clearly, so that he is able to stand up to justify his position and his selection."

Waldron is a man of strong views and character. When he stood on the stairs of the Angel Hotel to announce his first team, which played Scotland at Cardiff today, he did so as the "man most likely to fail", finally assuming the role of chairman of a club completely forced to announce disappointing results.

He did so, bullishly, looking over his half-glasses and, at crucial moments, taking them off as if to challenge anyone present who thought that the crisis was due to anything other than poor trading conditions outside.

He did not err by being the blame anywhere else. The fixed blame anywhere of the questioners suggested, but not stated, that the

next half-year with him finally in control had better show an upturn in performance. The shareholders, you might say, were left with an air of optimism. They believed in the man in charge.

While Waldron has been in the vanguard of change at Neath since 1982, it came as a surprise that he had coached the club back in the late 1960s. He resigned on some principle or other, which he has now forgotten, but continued to coach Neath Athletic Youth and then the Welsh Youth. Recent success for him has overshadowed everything, even, I would guess, the four caps he won in Wales's triple crown year of 1965.

"There was a conscious decision in 1982 that Neath had to change," Waldron said. "Brian Thomas, David Shaw, Glen Ball and myself went together and decided that Neath, who had long been in the doldrums, needed to once more play a prominent role in

Welsh rugby. The general work of the committee is vital, of course, but it was the selection of the right kind of players that came first. Players had to relate to the way we wanted Neath to play. It was partly traditional. From the days of Rees Stephens and Brian Sparks, we had had big, mobile, uncompromising players. Not just in the forwards but in the backs, too. They all had to be very skilful.

"It hasn't all been plain sailing. We have had our rows on the way things should be done, but such arguments have been vital to clear the air as well as direct our thoughts more clearly. Brian Thomas, for instance, would pose an outrageous point of view simply to get a response. People on any committee must have a point of view and, whatever it is, it has to be expressed. Otherwise, it's dead wood. You can't afford that."

Last year, aged 55, he retired

early from the steelworks. This put him in a unique position. As men of independent means, or professional men who could control their comings and goings, have played a vital part in sport's administration in the past, Waldron, now, in a different way, was free of work constraints.

The time was his own to devote as he wished. It is an enormous advantage in an amateur sport. However, he is again working for James Scott, the electrical engineering company which is part of the Amec group. "But they are kind, and we have a very flexible arrangement," he says.

Waldron needs that flexibility because he interprets his role more widely than those coaches before him. "We need in Wales to establish a better direction for all those involved in rugby," he said. "I have already met Alan Phillips [of Cardiff], Gareth Jenkins [Llanelli] and Alan Donovan [Swan-

sea] to discuss basic disciplines and philosophy. In time, I'll meet the other clubs, too. And I intend to meet schools and youth groups. "It is important that Wales has a common theme running right through the game at every level. There is what you might call a national programme in New Zealand. The same should apply to Wales, with its distinctive style."

Waldron will not be relinquishing his role in Neath just yet. Clearly, from what he says, there will be no respite for other Welsh clubs. "Neath is still a young team. The best is not here yet," he says. "There is so much more to be done. And we are becoming more community-based. The whole town feels so much better for having a good rugby team. We are developing a family atmosphere. We now have a commercial committee in place, and we want to develop rugby from the age of 11 upwards."

RUGBY UNION: PRIDE AND REVENGE WILL SPUR FRANCE AT PARC DES PRINCES

Ireland could suffer from French chic and Blanco's magic

By Bryan Stiles

The Parc des Princes could well be the setting of this afternoon for the prince of players, Serge Blanco, to take his leave of the game that he has graced so flamboyantly for more than 10 years.

For the past two seasons he has been strutting the stage with far less assurance. The dramatic gestures have not been having the old mesmeric effect on the opposition. Even sitting in the gods at the back of the stands his devotees realise he has been forgetting his lines more often and appears to be searching for the prompt board to discover what his next move should be.

Even at the peak of his powers he tended to drift away from centre stage for periods only to pop up from the trap door and perform a breathtaking piece of magic that would turn a tragedy into a triumph.

Perhaps with artistry and flair out of fashion in the Fouroux set-up it would be an appropriate time to bow out. But Blanco, like most of the French team, has a score he would like to settle before he departs. He wants to be on the winning side against New Zealand in the World Cup which comes to Europe next year.

More than that, he wants to be in the cup-winning team. It is an ambition that could well give a sharper edge to his skills in this afternoon's bottom-of-the-table game against Ireland, and help him keep his place in the French team for the build up to the cup competition.

He has picked his way irritably through the debris of a traumatic season for the French, who, much to his dismay, have abandoned the glorious open play that was their trademark.

Even last season, when France concentrated on forward power, who could forget the finger-tipped dexterity and the flowing grace which brought Blanco a try against Wales in Paris. The supreme athlete exhibiting the skills of the conjuror.

Blanco and his senior col-

TODAY'S TEAMS IN PARIS

France			Ireland		
S Blanco (Blarritz)	15	Full back	K Murphy (Constinution)	15	
P Hontas (Blarritz)	14	Right wing	K J Hooks (Arcia)	14	
P Sella (Agen)	13	Right centre	M J Kiernan (Dolphin)	13	
F Meanel (Racing Club)	12	Left centre	P P A Denaher (Garryowen)	12	
P Lagisquet (Bayonne)	11	Left wing	K D Crossan (Ressons)	11	
D Camberbero (Bazens)	10	Stand off	B A Smith (Oxford University)	10	
H Sanz (Narbonne)	9	Scrum half	L F P Aherne (Lansdowne)	9	
M Pujolle (Nice)	1	Prop	J J Fitzgerald (Young Munster)	1	
L Armory (Lourdes)	2	Hooker	T J Kingston (Dolphin)	2	
P Ondarts (Blarritz)	3	Prop	D C Fitzgerald (Lansdowne)	3	
J-M Lhermet (Montfermeil)	6	Flanker	P T J O'Hara (Sunday's Well)	6	
T Devergie (Nîmes)	4	Lock	D G Lenihan* (Constinution)	4	
J Condom (Blarritz)	5	Lock	N P Francis (Blackrock College)	5	
O Roumet (Dax)	7	Flanker	W D McBride (Melrose)	7	
L Rodriguez* (Dax)	8	No 8	N P Mannion (Corinthians)	8	

Referee: K W McCartney (Scotland)

REPLACEMENTS: 16 D Bouet (Dax), 17 F Meyer (Montfermeil), 18 E Melville (Toulon), 19 E Sauboum (Dax), 20 M Andreu (Nîmes), 21 F Volo (Grenoble)

*Captain

leagues are clearly not happy with the way the French team are having to play because of Fouroux's insistence on power play instead of giving rein to the natural ball-playing skills of the French.

He might be a little happier this afternoon, for it is a fairly safe bet that the visiting Irish will be treated to a little more attacking back play following the observation by Albert Ferrasse, the all-powerful French rugby president, that Didier Camberbero would have to bring his backs more quickly into play.

Having carried out a major blood-letting before the game against Scotland — 10 changes, including positional switches — the French must have been fairly happy with the way the team performed at Murrayfield before Carminati was dismissed for stamping. The game was finely poised at that

stage, with Scotland leading by only three points.

The French supporters have been used to forcing it over the rest of Europe in recent seasons and they will expect nothing less than a convincing victory and a better display of native skills this afternoon.

The Irish have had their ill-luck this season and the loss of Macdonald, their hooker, this week was a hard blow for a pack that has not posed too many problems for the opposition so far.

Like all true Irishmen, Jimmy Davidson's team travel hopefully. They have taken comfort from their improved display against the Scots following their worrying collapse at Twickenham. But history is against them. They have not won in Paris since 1972 and the odds are on the French ending their season on a winning note.

Stanger is primed to fulfil his promise

By Alan Lorimer

Few Scottish wings can have made a better start to their international careers than Tony Stanger, who scored two tries on his first appearance, against Fiji, and went on to better against Romania. Five tries in as many games, but in two games something special; it earned him headlines along the "Stanger in Paradise" theme.

Not that this was entirely unexpected, given Stanger's progress through the different age-levels of rugby and his string of representative honours at each status. Yet it was the decision to select him for Scotland's tour of Japan last May that launched his international career.

In Japan, where he celebrated his 21st birthday, he was second string to Ivan Tukalo and Matt Duncan, and was unable to win a place in Scotland's team for the calamitous match against Japan in Tokyo.

"I was disappointed that I did not play for Scotland in Japan but I decided to train hard over the summer and hope that the breaks would come my way," he said.

Stanger trained with a local "sportsman" during the summer to develop his speed and combined this with weight training. Although this was aimed at improving his performance on the rugby field, Stanger "peaked" sufficiently to win the Jedburgh 50-metre handicap, a small feat in an area where professional sprinting is strong, and the dedication to training has continued throughout the winter.

Stanger made his first appearance in the five nations' championship against Ireland in Dublin, where Scotland found the going much tougher than they did against Romania. So did Stanger.

"It was a much more physical game," he recalls. "The tackling was harder; there was little time to think; the opposition was better." His second championship game, against France, was different: "It was at home and I had had the experience of the Irish match. But it helped that Scotland got on top early on in the game."

Against Wales, Stanger will be opposite the British Isles player, Mike Hall. It will also be his first appearance at the National Stadium. "I'm looking forward to the experience, although I believe it is a very daunting place," Stanger says. "I don't think I will be put off by the huge Welsh crowd. They appreciate good rugby from either side."

BOWLS: CAPTIVATED CROWD AWAITS SEMI-FINAL OF A CAVALIER AUSTRALIAN



Pin-pointed: Schuback (centre) studies the lie during his quarter-final against Wood (right)

Club pairs strong in last-eight matches

By David Rhys Jones

Ian Schuback, the Australian with the cavalier looks who has captivated the crowd in his attempt to become the first overseas player to win the Embassy World Indoor singles title, has been practising daily on the portable rink before most of his fellow-competitors have risen from their beds. Yesterday, however, was pairs semi-final day at the Preston Guild Hall.

Rees and Price of Swansea; Smith and Thomson of Cyphers; Dunlop and Baker of 70 Antrim; Smyth and Halnall of Paddington; the Robertsons of East Lothian: it was surely no coincidence that five of the pairs in the quarter-finals of the £117,000 Embassy World Indoor championships in Preston were club partnerships.

Two-bowl pairs is neither fish nor fowl. That there are eight bowls in the head by the completion of each end — half the number of the more traditional forward pairs — should make it a similar game, practically speaking, to singles.

However, the fact that each combatant goes to war with only half his ammunition places greater emphasis on drawing to the jack than in the single-handed game, increases tension and gives more significance to each delivery. Dovetailing and a high degree of mutual understanding is essential.

Steve Rees, surprised to learn from his partner, John Price, that he had been dropped from the 24-man Welsh team to contest the home international series next month, noted his teeth and gave a good display of two-wood leading on St David's Day.

The Welshmen recovered from a two sets to nil scoreline to beat Gary Smith and Andy Thomson, the former British champions. Price gained in confidence as Thomson declined and Wales needed 21 shots to seven over the last three sets.

Rees and Price found themselves in a similar predicament yesterday, losing the first two sets to Tony Allcock and David Bryant, title winners three times in the last four years.

This time there was no way back for the Welsh pair, despite a third-set victory. The previous champions finished with a count of three to take the fourth set and complete a 7-6, 7-3, 7-5 win and move through to this afternoon's final.

PAIRS: Steve Rees & John Price (Wales), 7-6, 7-3, 7-5, 14.

Gala will be tested by Exiles

Despite what will be unprecedented national interest in Scotland's fortunes at the National Stadium there is an extensive domestic programme of rugby in Scotland today (Alan Lorimer writes).

In the South of Scotland, there are two interesting cross-border fixtures, Middlesbrough playing Kelso at Poynder Park and Roundhay the visitors to Hawick. Kelso, already without the services of John Jeffrey, will be without their former Lion's wing, Roger Baird, who is in Paris this weekend. Mike Hindhaugh deputizing for him on the left wing.

The Poynder Park club also introduce a new hooker, the 21-year-old Brian Cassie. Roundhay have in the past few seasons provided stiff opposition for the former Scottish champions. Hawick, who today bring in David Gray at scrum half and David Armstrong for the Scotland replacements Greig Oliver and Derek Turnbull.

At Netherdale, London Scottish will be making their third appearance this season north of the border when they face Gala, whose resurgence has posed problems for several first division sides.

Gala will be tested up front by a pack containing two Cambridge Blues, Andy Hobbs, at No 8 and Andy MacDonald, the Scotland B player, at lock.

Melrose, the favourites for the McEwen's championship should have a relatively easy match at the Greenyards against the third division side, Royal High, but even even Craig Chalmers, the notable absentee, they are at virtually full strength for what will be a preparation for their crucial league match next Saturday against Jed-Forest.

Active Cornwall motivated to reach the county final

By David Hands, Rugby Correspondent

The Cornish constabulary, worried no doubt about an influx to Redruth of Middlesex supporters waving their cordless telephones, were relieved to hear that the crowd at today's Tostock county championship semi-final will be largely undisturbed: invasions out of London tend not to match those into the capital so the 80 or so with Middlesex will hardly be noticed amid the 1,100 spurring Cornwall on to the final at Twickenham on April 7.

Many of them will recall, too, that Middlesex baulked Redruth in the 1987 semi-final, in the rather more dispassionate setting of the Stoop Memorial ground. On their own sod it may be a different matter: for all that Middlesex have made a number of changes since their qualifying games when they scraped through only by a point against Hertfordshire, and by three against Hampshire.

"We expected them to load the team up once they reached this stage of the competition," Vic Phillips, Cornwall's secretary, said. "What I want to know is what they are going to do next season when the senior clubs say they are not going to release players for county games that are being played on the same dates as the divisional championships."

Cornwall have not been idle since scoring 100 points in the two group matches after their 6-6 draw with Berkshire last September. There have been games against the Royal Navy and a Chief Constable XV, to keep them in trim while such promising young forwards as Haag and Reed have been adding to their experience with Bath and Plymouth Albion respectively.

In the other semi-final Lancashire, with 10 Orrell players, play Warwickshire at Orrell. Des Seabrook, the county coach and former assistant England coach, said: "With so much league rugby being played, I have established a theme of county players enjoying their rugby for Lancashire instead of sweating and worrying about league points. But I very much want these boys to get to Twickenham and have the opportunity of playing there."

With so much attention focused on the south of the country, Lancashire will be keen to sustain a proud northern tradition against Warwickshire side based on a rapidly-improving Coventry.

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Hall, Massey, Farrington, Travett, Robb and the two Thomases — were part of the 1986 championship-winning XV and would enjoy a return to Twickenham.

CORNWALL: C Allcock (Camborne); S Trevellick (Bath); A Meade (Devon) and A Chief Constable XV, to keep them in trim while such promising young forwards as Haag and Reed have been adding to their experience with Bath and Plymouth Albion respectively.

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CYCLING

Maxwell is up against a big field

Peter Maxwell, the Liverpool-born defender who has made an enormous field of 200 in the classic Eddie Soens Memorial Handicap 50-mile road race on the Aintree circuit tomorrow (a Special Correspondent writes).

Then, like last year, Maxwell, aged 22, will travel to France on Monday to Tros, to ride for the top French club VC Aub. Last year at Aintree, he outspurred Wayne Randle (Cheshire) and Britain has only one player, Monique Javer, in the top 100; the Wightman Cup has been temporarily suspended because of its inadequacy and, Sarah Loosmore apart, there are no real signs of improvement on the horizon.

Maxwell's main aim this year is to gain selection for Great Britain in the Milk Race.

SPEED SKATING

Leading pair go for Britain

Ian Gooch and Wilf O'Reilly, the Olympic gold medal winner, carry British hopes in the world championships in Amsterdam from March 16 to 18. Gooch, aged 17, from London, finished fourth in the recent Europa Cup meet in Rheims, France, with O'Reilly seventh.

The pair are joined by Matthew Jasper and Ian Ellis, both from Nottingham, in the world team championships in Ghent, Belgium, on March 10 and 11, and in the individual championships a week later.

TENNIS

Jones assumes responsibility for Britain's hopeless cause

By Andrew Longmore, Tennis Correspondent

Ann Jones has been given the unenviable job of lifting British women's tennis back to the levels the nation craves and she herself achieved more than 20 years ago. Yesterday, Jones, at the age of 51, was appointed women's international tennis director by the Lawn Tennis Association.

Compared to this task, her 1969 Wimbledon title will seem like a stroll in the sunshine. Britain has only one player, Monique Javer, in the top 100; the Wightman Cup has been temporarily suspended because of its inadequacy and, Sarah Loosmore apart, there are no real signs of improvement on the horizon.

Having been involved in British tennis over the past 20 years in various roles, the latest being international team captain, Jones has no illusions about the size of the mountain facing her and Richard Lewis, who has

been upgraded to director of national training. Asked if she would like to summarize the state of British women's tennis, she replied: "No thanks."

Such odds will not deter Jones, who was known for her determination and single-mindedness on court, and the players might find that the wind of change is fairly chilly over the next two years. Jones is a believer in the philosophy of self-help.

"Tennis is an individual sport and it is up to the players to produce the goods on the court. I feel, sometimes, that too much is being done for the players. Yes, they need some support, but they have to do the major part of the work themselves," she said yesterday.

The main international priority, Jones added, is to prepare a decent team for the 1991 Federation Cup in Nottingham which is being organized by Jones's predecessor as national

director, Sue Mappin. In the long term, Jones will be working simply to get more girls playing tennis.

"The boys game has exploded recently and I hope that something similar will happen in the girls' game because we need to have a broader base in the game. In my day, there were more tennis players in the schools and then, in the holidays, the girls graduated to the junior tournaments. The gap has widened a lot recently," she said.

With Jones and Warren Jacques, the international men's team manager, Lewis will be the third part of the triumvirate which will control British tennis over the next few years.

Lewis, who has been in charge of boys' junior training, now takes on overall responsibility for girls and boys as director of national training and, possibly, as much for geographic — Jones will still be in Birmingham — as structural reasons, he will take on much of the administration previously handled by Mappin.

"I'm not going to be an administrator, but I'll be very much involved with the management of staff and players through the national training department," Lewis said.

It would be asking too much of the new team to produce over the next two years, but with Ann Jones in charge, there will be no shortage of heart and soul either. "Look what happened in the cricket," she added brightly. "Perhaps Gooch, that well-known resurrector of hopeless causes."

The new idol of American tennis, page 54

Starling the key to a chirpy Honeyghan



If Honeyghan wants to have any chance of being the first Briton to win a world title

It is almost certain that a
old pro like Duff, who changed
Michael Watson's stand-up
and-box style to cover-up-and-
look-scarce stance to such a
devastating effect against
Nigel Benn, will have advised
Honeyghan to try Starling's
hands-on approach.
"Starling will beat Breland

"Honeyghan is a very predictable fighter," Fariello said. "He'll come in winging. He won't fight any other way."

"Once I get past his hands," Honeyghan says, "it will be over. When it gets tough, it will show. He lacks physical strength to absorb punishment."

One would have confidence in Honeyghan's boast if his hands were in good condition and if mentally he was less volatile. But his arthritis not only forces him to punch incorrectly with swings and leaves himself open to blows from every angle, it also forces him to forget his goal. He



England A players may adapt better to a five-day game

Lancashire reject four-day format for championship

● SYDNEY: Andrew Hilditch spent six hours compiling an unbeaten century to help South Australia reach 291 for five on the first day of their four-day Sheffield Shield match against Tasmania in Adelaide yesterday (Reuter reports). Opener Hilditch, 103 not out at the close, held the innings together against a depleted Tasmanian attack. Queensland and New South

**format
pionship**

Many past and present cricket players are expected to attend the funeral of the former Northamptonshire and England batsman, Colin Milburn, at Burnopfield Methodist Church, near Consett, on Monday (11am). Milburn, aged 48, collapsed and died earlier this week.

At Port of Spain on January 30, 1960, West Indies had stumbled to 98 for eight when the first bottle appeared. It was around two o'clock on a Saturday afternoon and very hot; there were 30,000 people present, at that time the



To many who saw West Indies play their last two Test matches in Australia early last year, the Kingston result will have come as less of a surprise than to those conditioned to seeing England lose, whatever the opposition. Without the awkward bounce of the Perth and Melbourne pitches to help

Monie stands by the same Figan squad that did duty in last Saturday's Silk Cup Challenge Cup victory at Wakefield. With Leeds no longer having an interest in the cup, and Figan still heavily involved as

SKIING

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the NHL.

He has played in the junior ranks for Windsor, Belleville and Hamilton. In 1983, he was drafted by the Buffalo Sabres and has since appeared in minor professional hockey for Rochester.

"There are only two forward lines in this country, whereas we have three or four at home. And the shifts are much longer," he said. "You have to prepare yourself."

Another difficult adjustment

Being the brother of someone who has been known as "The Great One" for more than 10

An overriding problem is the lack of practice time, with ice available to the Raiders only once a week, at midnight, for an hour. Another difficulty for Crawford is an increasing number

Ayr Raiders have a fight on their hands if they are to qualify for the play-offs, but the acquisition of Keith Gretzky gives them a boost.

N. America	160
Scotland	161



OF GREAT
BRITAIN

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SPORTS BOOK OF THE WEEK

Batting in a boundless field

The pursuit of cricket memorabilia, once a genteel hobby, has mushroomed in the past decade. Marcus Williams and Gordon Phillips trace the growth in interest and the discovery of some historic pieces.

Cricket memorabilia may be broadly defined as any object connected with this most English of games, be it 18th-century book or woodwormed bat, cigarette card or postcard, panoramic painting or polychrome print, 78rpm gramophone record or jam maker's golly badge, cherished autograph album or yellowing scrapbook, new-fangled video cassette or computer game, an abdominal protective box — yes, one of these did appear at auction — or a chunk of masonry from the perimeter wall at The Oval. In fact, the subject is almost boundless. Every one of the items is collectable, and collected by devotees, and though the appeal of some items may be too personal or esoteric for others, there exists a ready and established market for just about anything associated with cricket.

Material can turn up in the most unlikely places, although some leads can prove to be, almost literally, red herrings: more than one cricket collector has been seduced by a book entitled *A Summer on the Test, 1930* — only to discover that it is about fishing. However, examples of two unlikely but genuine sources can well illustrate the point: the first involves militant women, the second rubbish, and both stories also prove that the thrill of making a new discovery is far from lost.

It was a casual remark by John Kennedy Melting, an historian and critic (though not of cricket), which revealed that he did in fact own one item connected with the game.

It was a ball — could it be one with which Botham or Trueman performed great deeds, perhaps?

No, older than that — used by Bedser, maybe, or Laker?

No, earlier — Tate, Verity, Freeman?

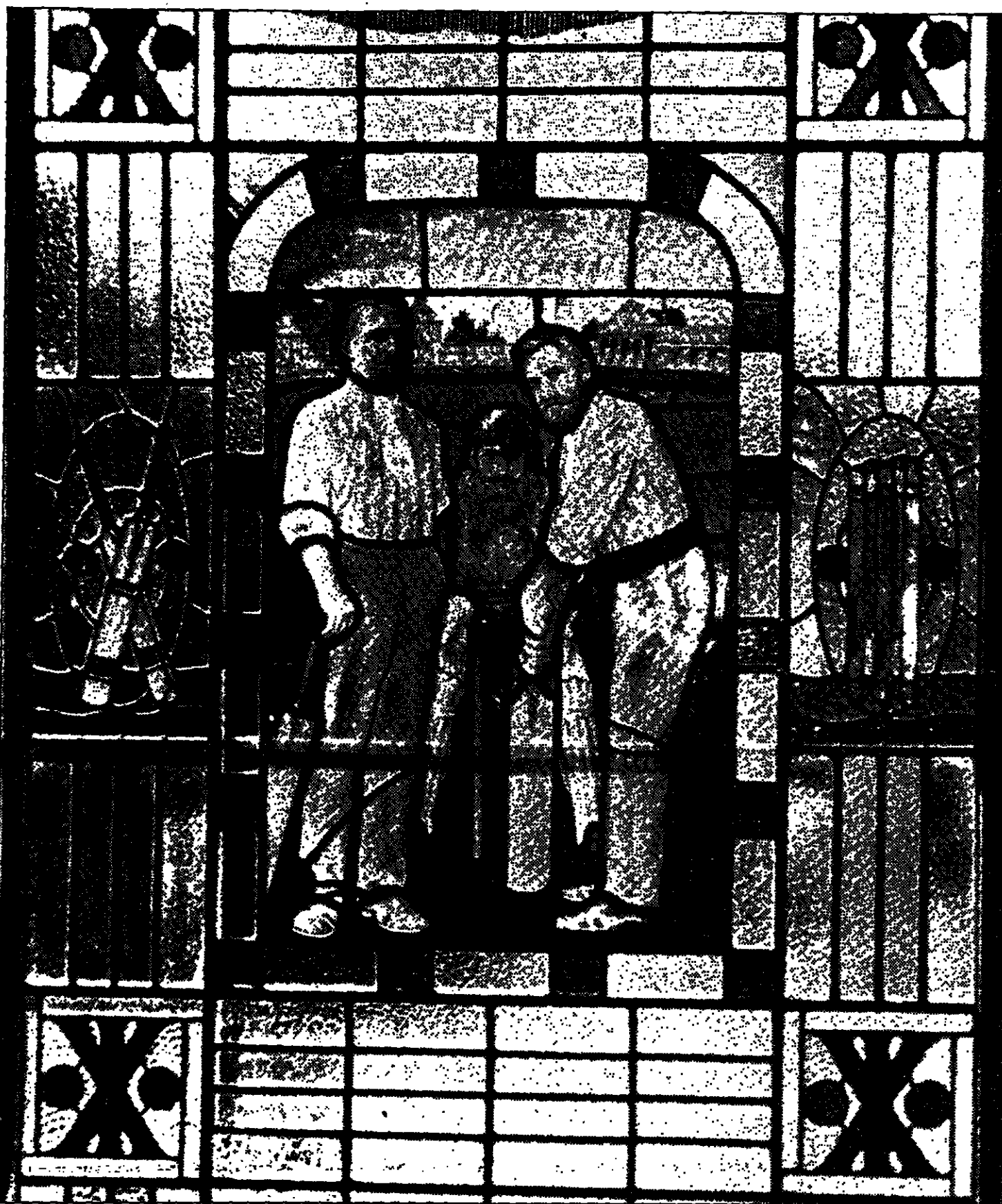
No, before the First World War — Barnes, Rhodes, Richardson? No, delivered by a female arm — female arm? Perhaps one of the Original English Lady Cricketers, who were chaperoned around the country playing games of a strictly sporting nature in the 1890s? One of those special blue cricket balls once developed for the women's game and on display at Lord's?

Still no. And so he unfolded the tale. The ball had found its way into Melting's possession nearly 20 years earlier. He was given it by a former Alderman of Essex County Council, Miriam Eileen Edwards, who had inherited it from her father. He was Superintendent Wilcox of the Metropolitan Police, whose face, beneath his flat cap, became familiar as the officer who regularly arrested Emmeline Pankhurst during the struggles of the Suffragettes. (Wilcox carried out his duty, apparently, in a most gentlemanly way, telephoning Mrs Pankhurst first to say that he was on his way.) On May 21, 1914 the campaigners' order of the day was a window-smashing protest in

Whitehall. While Mrs Higginson used as ammunition stones collected in Southend — such things were said to have been not easily found at that time in London — her companion on the raid, Mrs Marshall, hurled a more expensive missile, namely this cricket ball, through a Cabinet Minister's window, whence it was retrieved and came into Wilcox's hands. The ball carries in gold lettering the retailer's name, Army & Navy, and in black ink the protesters' message, "A PROUD & COWARDLY KING" and, beneath the stitching, "1914". The leather surface of the ball is intact apart from a few black stains and half a dozen tiny punctures, which may have been caused by the glass as the ball shattered the window. A piece of British, if not exactly cricketing, history, but a prize piece of cricketana rescued and preserved.

Rescue, too, as well as a feminine connection, was the keynote of our other late entry, involving a blazer from the 1929-30 MCC tour of the West Indies. This navy blue garment, adorned with the familiar George and Dragon badge and red and yellow piping, was found in a rubbish skip in Cheltenham by a husband whose wife had been diligently clearing out piles of unwanted stuff found in the loft. Seeing the name tag, he telephoned a friend to ask whether anybody named R.E.S. Wyatt had played for England. By happy chance the friend was also the chairman of Derbyshire County Cricket Club, and the rest is another bit of history. The blazer turned out to be the only one missing from Wyatt's collection, and Warwickshire, his former county, arranged for it to be returned to him during the Edgbaston Test match of 1989. Sixty years on, England's then oldest living Test player, and captain, was thus reunited with a treasured item presumed lost forever. What was it doing in Cheltenham? The house outside which it was rescued was believed to have belonged to Wyatt's brother.

Until quite recently the collecting of cricketana was an apparently arcane pursuit, dominated by a handful of collectors and part-time dealers, but the advent of regular sales by leading London auction houses in 1978 has brought it to a far wider audience and attracted a wider range of material on to the market. This has, inevitably, led to an escalation of prices, much to the chagrin of some collectors who feel themselves squeezed out by the greater buying power of the full-time dealers and who question the morality that lies behind the commercial ethos, feeling that cricketana belongs to the world of cricket, not to the world of business. It has to be accepted, however, that the market-place is



Stained-glass splendour: R.G. Barlow at the crease on a window which once adorned his house and is now at Old Trafford

now dominated by the auctions, although in global terms the levels are still those of a hobby when compared to the vast sums expended on works of art. Whereas these may be calculated in millions of pounds, cricketana still rates in hundreds and sometimes in thousands. Among competitive sports, however, cricket is rivalled for range and demand only by golf, horse racing, and possibly boxing; the presence of American and Japanese money, particularly in golf, makes for increased competition and thus higher prices than in cricket, although Australian bidders, first prominent at the MCC Bicentenary auction in 1987, are making their dollars felt.

The fun of collecting is not the simple acquisition by passing a cheque over a counter; it is the fun of search, discovery and attainment. All three are the fruits of accrued knowledge gained the hard way, for to be a real collector

one needs a fatalistic outlook, a deep purse, boundless optimism and a good-natured woman about the house.

Collecting becomes a serious affliction that cannot be operated upon. No bookshop or gallery worth its salt is safe from attack. Triffid-like, what starts as a hobby mutates into a fascination that can become a compulsion.

The greatest collectors have always been, with but a few exceptions, players of only mediocre ability, their pleasure derived from the ownership of things connected with the heritage of the game, not in itself a bad substitute. Writing in *The Cricketer* (May 2, 1936), J.W. (Joe) Goldman placed himself squarely in that category — and never collected bats and balls, which he claimed not to understand.

No conclusions dare to be made as to why so few active first-class cricketers show so little interest in memorabilia. Even their achievements or records of their representative sides are sometimes shrugged off. Perhaps life indeed is too short to be both a full-time player and collector, or do players become immune to inanimate historical objects dimly perceived while moving from one pavilion to another? The attitude was typified by Bob Willis, once captain of Warwickshire and England and taker of 325 Test wickets, who said he had no desire "to turn my home into a shrine to myself" — he had always kept his trophies in a suitcase. Willis put his memorabilia up for auction (at Christie's in October 1988) with the laudable wish that devotees, who truly appreciate the array of blazers, shirts, jerseys, balls and medals, might have a chance to own them.

By contrast, one of the first major collectors was that most amiable of men, Richard Gorton Barlow of Lancashire and England (1851-1919), who lived in a house surrounded by memories of bat and ball, cricket trophies and "presents innumerable". With Bob Appleyard, the only other significant collector to have played Test cricket was Evelyn Rockley Wilson (1879-1957). Possessed of a proud Yorkshire snobbery — "One doesn't necessarily know cricket just because one has played for Leicestershire" — Rockley Wilson was a scholarly, erudite man, "a firm believer in the straight bat", and, with a considerable knowledge of furniture, philately and silver, was as close to Renaissance man as cricket could claim since Felix. His home was crammed with cricket pictures, china figures, handkerchiefs and the dining room dominated by a picture of

Collecting becomes an affliction that cannot be operated upon. Triffid-like, a hobby mutates into a fascination that can become a compulsion

Fuller Pilch at the wicket. A library of over 3,000 items avoided ephemeral trash and ghosted autobiographies, and under the terms of his will MCC were blessed with first choice of the rich pickings.

Another considerable collector was said to be G. Leonard Garnsey (1881-1951), a Sheffield Shield player for New South Wales, of whom it has been written that he owned all the early Australian annuals. If that is so, "considerable" is an understatement.

How easy it must have been for the pioneer collectors. There were Padwick, Ford and Gaston advertising in *The Field and Exchange and Mart*, traversing the home counties, often in concert, purchasing eagerly everything offered for a song, while all around them the motherlode of memorabilia awaited collection with singularly little competition. Cricketana as a hobby was a genteel occupation for a narrow, almost incestuous, brotherhood of collectors. Among major collectors there was a close alliance. Thomas Padwick was at school with A.L. Ford, and his daughter married Charles Pratt Green; Padwick also happened to be a close friend of A.J. Gaston, who was in turn a close friend of W.L. Murdoch, the former Australian captain, then settled in Sussex.

Other than books, the cricketing cult came into being in the heyday of W.G. Grace, when it was fashionable for houses, both great and small, to be graced with a cricketing piece or two. Supply always rises to meet demand, so that a touch of cricket was applied to a plethora of household and personal articles — clocks, pottery figures, mugs, jugs, ashtrays and jewellery. Around the turn of the century, Gaston's articles in *Wisden* and *The Cricketer* stimulated a keen demand for cricket books, but this was short-lived, so that by 1905 F.S. Ashley-Cooper noted that although interest in collecting was as great as ever, albeit within a tight-knit circle, prices were lower than at any period since 1890. With certain notable exceptions, prices actually remained stable and in favour of the collector virtually from Edwardian days to after the Second World War.

Such cricket items as did appear at auction were tiny portions of more cosmopolitan sales, but generally the collecting scene was moribund. There was a time between the wars when it was possible to enter an antique dealer's shop, ask for a cricketing piece, and either be met with blank astonishment, or a gruff remark that nothing of that kind had been seen for years, or be offered, from some dusty corner, an autographed bat.

The exact origins of cigarette cards remain imprecise, the best likelihood being that the earliest was an American tobacco card dated 1877, which was discovered in the Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York; but as internal stiffeners for pre-wrapped tobacco they were the dream of advertising medium. Cheap and adaptable, they made their mark in the grey, drab streets of newly industrialised towns toward the end of the last century, offering scraps of colour to rootless, half-literate men and their families. The cards appeared first as singles, then, once the consumer was hooked, as sets in series.

Entrepreneurs were quick off the mark to meet the great male interest in sport. The first known issue to portray cricketers turned up in Australia, c. 1886, packaged by a New York firm, Goodwin & Company, under the brand name Old Judge and entitled 'Celebrities'. In-depth research was evidently not a strong point at Goodwin's, for there are some strange aberrations in the naming of players: R.C. Barton (R.G. Barlow), Billing (Pilling) and J.E.K. Stud (Studd). The same company produced Old Judge Cigarette Factory base cards of an assortment of other celebrities around 1890, among them Blackham, Bonnor, Boyle, Giffen, McDonnell and Walters. Three of these were snapped up for £155 at a Caxton Hall auction in 1975, a percentage only of their value today. Another transatlantic company, the American Tobacco Company, was responsible for Bonanza and Dollar brand name sets, and again the choice of people in the public eye included cricketers — S.E. Gregory, Trotter, Ford, Phillips, Richardson and Ward.

Added by the mechanisation of

Pasteboard tribute with a score in thousands

Willis were quick to learn from the impact made in America by pictorial cards, and their printers, Mardon's, are thought to have run off a pioneering set in 1887, soon to be followed by the first of many runs by John Player & Sons in Nottingham. As part of the "tobacco war" of 1899-1902, Ogden's of Liverpool introduced their Guinness Gold photographic cards, then their 'Tobos', and, prior to their sale to Imperial Tobacco in 1902, so rampant in size were their issues that they are still commonplace. The Imperial Tobacco Company dominated the market in the first years of this century, but there were still about 150 other companies, usually very small, quietly doing their own thing in the way of cards.

The printing of cards ceased in 1917, not to begin again properly until 1922. During this period, one of the most celebrated firms issuing high-quality cards went under. This was James Taddy & Company, founded in 1750, whose first series of cards came out in 1887. Originally purveyors of tobacco, tea and snuff, they were one of the earliest companies to introduce packet tobacco, with beautifully produced cards whose dual purpose was to act as stiffeners and to encourage brand loyalty. The abrupt demise of the company, brought about by industrial strife, ended a great era of cigarette cards. The low survival rate of their cards has led to their issues becoming exceptionally desirable rarities.

However, they were but one of the many series of cigarette and trade cards, both monochrome and coloured, international in coverage, which have been assiduously collected for many years and auctioned at prices for the earlier issues



Cricketing caricatures: cards from 1926, drawn by "Rip" and autographed by their subjects

Between the wars, ornate printing styles and rather stilted textual notes gave way to more functional modes. Print runs by the great manufacturing companies — John Player, Ogden's, Ardath, Churchman's, Carreras, Godfrey Phillips, R. & J. Hill and J. Millhoff — became ever more gigantic and could be counted in hundreds of millions. On the principle of "lick and stick", special albums were provided by local tobacconists at the cost of a few pence.

Cricketers were sometimes portrayed within a wide range of other activities, either as politicians, actors, golfers or footballers, so that there are some 12,000 collectable cards, including varieties. While Australian issues are second to Britain, many have come from unlikely countries, such as Italy and Belgium.

From 1900 to the 1930s few first-class cricketers failed to appear, as well as virtually every

touring teams to Britain since 1899. Some faces have been overlooked, but Bradman features on more than a hundred cards and Jack Hobbs was probably represented on more cards than any other cricketer. W.G. Grace, for once, is well down the field with only about half that many, coming on the scene a little too early for this form of tribute.

Quite apart from pictures of the players, there have been grounds, old cricket prints, umpiring tips, puzzles and games, crests, ties, statistics, comic cards by Phil May, Punch cartoons, as well as comic characters such as Bonzo and Billy Bunter. The 1926 caricatures by "Rip", part of the Player's 'Cricketers' series, are remarkable for their likenesses, characteristic postures and mannerisms.

Few of the cards pretend to a genuine artistic appeal, and perhaps among the most attractive

rare — the delicate lithographs produced in Germany for the Wills 'Cricketers' sets of 1896 and 1901. By comparison their later issues, 1908, 1928 and 1929, seem garish. Other catchy early sets are the 1902 'Vanity Fair' issues — three series, each of 50 cards — and the 'County Badges' set printed on silk for Godfrey Phillips. Their 'Pinnacle' sets issued between 1923 and 1925 have a dignity of their own, especially the larger size "brown backs" available from the Godfrey Phillips stand at the 1924 British Empire Exhibition.

Others look amateurish beyond belief, and a particularly striking example is the series produced by J. Baines of Bradford. These date from the 1880s to 1914-18 or thereabouts, with some 40 cards shaped as shields, hearts, ivy leaves and so forth. Generally monochrome, with a band across the shield in different colours, they were distributed through local

The price of cards has moved sharply upwards in recent years and shows no signs of abating. Most issues between the wars are relatively easy to find, less so those from overseas. Issues pre-1914 are an entirely different matter — even in 1962 figures of £5 per card were mentioned, with 2s. (10p) the bottom line for less rare items, and some of the scarcer issues had not changed hands for 20 years or so. Rarity and price do not depend on age alone and some comparatively recent sets — especially those issued with confectionery such as the famous Barratt's issues of the late 1920s and 1930s, which include several lesser known players — can be extremely elusive. Cards issued up to 1905 are always heavily in demand, even in only fair condition. The classic sets such as the 50 cards of the Wills 'Cricketers' of 1896 and 1901 will always command a premium, even though they may not be as rare as the Pattrieux photographic 'Cricketers' series of 96 cards, which is nigh impossible to find complete, despite its being as recent as 1922. A single Wills card from the 1896 set (Lockwood) was bought for £18 in November 1984, while the 1901 set was valued at £250 in 1983, and single cards a year later at £5 each. The 1896 set now stands tall at £1,500. As for the Pattrieux set, they now average around £30 a card.

A prime attraction at a November 1984 auction was a full set of 25 D. & J. Macdonald's 'Cricketers' (1902), estimated at £300-£800, which reached the astronomical figure of £2,600. A decade earlier a similar set realised £285. Fry, Grace, Jessop, MacLaren and Ranji are among those portrayed in this set issued from Glasgow, with the Winning brand

the greatest challenge lies in acquiring long series of cards such as Taddy's 1908 series of 238 county cricketers. Being white background cards they are not easy to find in clean condition, added to which they appear to have been issued on a regional basis, making certain counties harder than others. A portion of the set, 195 in all, realised £2,400 at Phillips in November 1987, and a total of £228, sold by county, soared to £5,825 in May 1989, with the 15 Northamptonshire cards making double any other county at £850.

All pre-1914 cards sell well, but those from the 1930s, printed in millions, find a slow market. The famous Player's issues for 1934 and 1938, usually about 10-20p per card, are regularly to be found in shop windows, framed and mounted and selling for about £14.50. Since 1982-83 the 'Nostalgia' reprints by Murray Cards of facsimile issues of the two early Wills sets, accordingly lettered at the base and framed in brass, are often to be seen as office displays, an elegant addition to wooden panelling in VIP corners.

Complete sets are always desirable and most sets up to the value of £50-£60 are available, given time. Beyond that it becomes a question of patience, and the dilemma is whether to acquire odd cards in a series or wait for the set. More often than not, the sets are in better condition than the singles, and it is still possible to upgrade as time goes by. Mint cards can often be worth three or four times the value of ones in inferior order, and dealers nowadays are only too aware of the value of their stock.

Extracted from *The Wisden Book of Cricket Memorabilia* by Marcus Williams and Gordon Phillips, with a foreword by John Arlott, to be published next Thurs-

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"I don't know what you mean," said the man.
"I mean," said the woman, "that I am not
going to let you go." The man looked at her
for a moment, then he turned away and
walked towards the door. The woman followed
him, and when he reached the door she
opened it and looked out. She saw a car
driving away from the house. She closed the
door and went back to the kitchen. She
looked at the clock and saw that it was
ten o'clock. She sighed and went to bed.

Justice Tudor Evans and Mr Justice Hadden. The appellant was not given the opportunity to read the subsequent record, said to have been made within a few minutes of the hearing. In their view, so that he could either sign it as correct or indicate the respects in which he considered it inaccurate.

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- IN PATAGONIA: EMOTIONAL GEOGRAPHY
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THE TIMES SATURDAY MARCH 3 1990

TRAVEL 59

TRAVEL

Caribbean cricket-hopping

Inspired by England's success in the first of the five West Indian Tests, James Henderson and Brian Viner propose a sporting island tour



Universal obsession: cricket is played everywhere, and represents the Caribbean's sturdiest ladder to fame

The Jamaicans are the second best hustlers in the Caribbean. The Haitians are better, but there can't be too many Caribbean experiences more intimidating than being hustled in a Kingston side street.

"Hey London, what appenin? What canna do fer yer, man?" The hustler offers a complete inventory of services of doubtful appeal, but he has the *lyric*, and once he's found his line and length he won't be stonewalled. Inevitably, you end up parting with cash.

The cricketing metaphor is an apt one. Mention the game and this Caribbean Arthur Daley becomes your best friend.

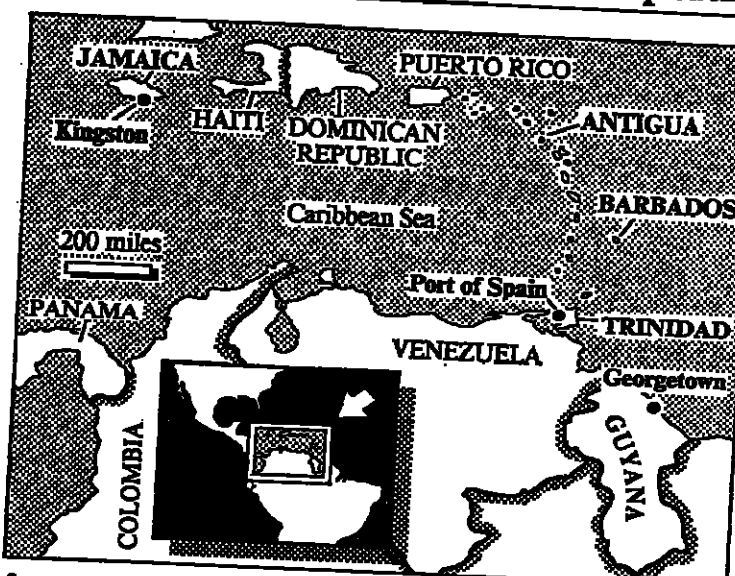
In Jamaica, where England started its five-Test series so splendidly, cricket is a national obsession. During a Test match the otherwise relentless rap of dance-hall reggae falls silent, because every radio is tuned to the commentary from Sabina Park. Politics divide, but cricket unites — a cliché, but an apt one, for the nation is led in its love of cricket by none other than Michael Manley, the Prime Minister.

His book, *A History of West Indian Cricket* (published in 1988), has an introduction by former captain Clive Lloyd. "Cricket," Lloyd says, "is the ethos around which West Indian society revolves. All our experiments in Caribbean integration either failed or have maintained a dubious desirability; but cricket remains the instrument of Caribbean cohesion."

More than that, West Indian cricket reflects the Caribbean way of life, both in its diversity of colour and its uniformity of spirit. The British can be tremendously proprietorial about cricket, and about the democratic political system we have bequeathed to the Caribbean, but the West Indies has given both its own stamp.

In Guyana, host to the second Test, March 9-14, fewer than a million people live in a country larger than Britain, most of them along a coastal strip which skirts impenetrable mountains and rainforests.

Desperately poor and beset by economic problems, Guyana, on the South American mainland, is included in the West Indies because of its British heritage. Here, as everywhere in the Caribbean, youngsters defend biscuit-tin wickets on any piece of open ground. The bigger boys bat and bowl (always with a bent arm) and the toddlers man the outfield. Clive Lloyd himself graduated



from cricket on a Guyanese dirt-track.

As in Trinidad, where the third Test is to be played on March 23-28, the population of Guyana is a surprising mix. About half the Guyanese are of East Indian stock, their ancestors brought over as indentured labourers after the final emancipation of the African slaves in 1838.

In both Guyana and Trinidad, the evening skyline is silhouetted with the prayer-flags of the Hindus and the domed mosques of the Muslims. And East Indians, too, have left their mark on West Indian cricket, in players like the graceful little Guyanese left-hander, Kalicharran, and Sonny Ramadhin, the mesmeric Trinidadian spinner of the 1950s.

Trinidad lies seven miles off the Venezuelan coast. It is the home of the Caribbean Carnival, an explosive month-long celebration of calypso and fete (rum and dancing parties) which culminated on Shrove Tuesday. Port of Spain heaved with the masquerade. Bands of brightly dressed dancers a thousand strong were all shifting in time.

But in the hills above Port of Spain life goes on as normal. It was there, in the Maraval valley, that we came across a dozen kids playing cricket in the road. In turn we were handed the makeshift bat and sent in to defend the inevitable biscuit-tin lid against the might of the gangly Winston, aged 11. Is it possible to swing an ancient tennis ball? Anyway, it took just two deliveries to humiliate us both; two tremendous clatters and peals of little-boy laughter from the outfield. "Well you better bowl man, if yer kysan bat."

Who knows if one of these

pickneys will end up tormenting England at Lord's. They certainly yearn to, for cricket is one of the sturdiest ladders in the Caribbean to fame and social status.

Barbadians, in particular, positively worship their finest cricketers. The heroic stature of Sir Garfield Sobers remains undiminished, years after he wielded bat and bowled to such extraordinary effect. And each time you part with a five-dollar note you see upon it Sir Frank Worrell, the first black West Indian to captain the team and the man responsible for welding 11 men from different islands into a unit.

Barbados, which hosts the fourth Test, April 5-10, is a tiny coral island, 14 miles by 10, out on its own in the Atlantic and rimmed with some of the area's finest beaches. Its people are considered formal and, by Caribbean standards, even reserved, yet they are fiercely proud. In cricketing terms alone they have much to be proud about. During

25 years of the domestic championship, once the Shell Shield and now the Red Stripe Cup, Barbados has been victorious a record 12 times. Such stars as Gordon Greenidge and Malcolm Marshall have ensured a smooth transition from the Sobers era.

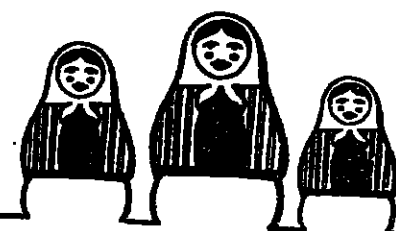
The Leeward island of Antigua, where the final Test of the series gets under way on April 12, is smaller even than Barbados. It is also the youngest nation of the five Test hosts, having gained independence in 1981.

Like Barbados, Antigua derives most of its income from tourism. Two hundred years ago it was just another sugar factory, its every square inch covered with swathes of 12ft sugar cane interrupted now and then by a plantation house and windmill. Now just the conical shells of the mills survive and the countryside is bare; but it is the beaches, used only for smuggling in the 18th century, that people come for.

TRAVEL NOTES

A number of companies offer tours covering Test and One-Day Matches in Trinidad, Barbados and Antigua. Gullivers Sports Travel arranges trips to individual islands and combinations (between 17 and 24 days). Information: 0684 293 175. Caribbean Connection also offers individual island packages and combinations to the last three Tests. Independent travellers can be fitted in. Information: 01-631 4482. For the independent-minded, it is possible to find accommodation at this time of year but being high season it can be expensive (single travellers beware — rooms are usually charged as doubles). Test Match tickets cost about the same as they do in this country: £15-£25 per day.

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	Ocean Club at Ramle Bay (FI)	48/2/5116	8, 9/1/8042	42/5/014
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TRAVEL



Stepping out: nanny Jackie Roberts takes four of her charges for a walk in the grounds of Woolley Grange, set in 14 acres

At home on the Grange

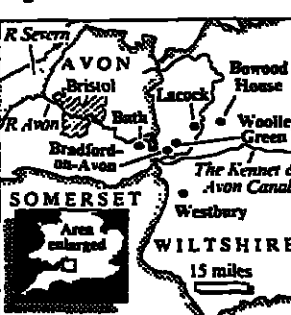
Peter Brown finds a British hotel that actually welcomes children

The waitress hovered. "Everything all right for you?" The five-year-old made history. He never normally talks to strangers. "Why," he demanded, "is my guinea-fowl taking so long?"

The inevitable conclusion of the kitchen must have been that their hand-working parents need to spend time with them. In Woolley Grange, where the staff is extremely attentive. One difficulty with children is that they don't play by the rules. On the face of it, taking them to a hotel for a weekend seems like courting trouble. The latest *Good Hotel Guide* says that too few hotels in Britain welcome children. One in three establishments simply will not have them.

Well, experiences may have told. Those books that parents never have time to read until they get away for the weekend are full of brats so unbelievably annoying that people pay to have them removed. Aren't they what you go to hotels to get away from?

Our children, needless to say, are not like that, and it was for the parents of Sophie, Alexander, Thomas, Amelia and a dog called Woolley Grange was invented last year. A graceful, multi-chimneyed Jacobean pile on the edge of Salisbury



Plain, it has been refurbished with tongue-in-cheek good taste. It feels all Colefax and Fowler, but turn a corner and there's a stuffed bear, another and there's a mermaid mural on the ceiling.

It also recognizes that children can occasionally be human and ought not to be ostracized, and that their hand-working parents need to spend time with them.

In Woolley Grange, we shared a bedroom, not entirely successfully, with our three (the other two were aged 18 months and nine). It was a wonderful room, old and big, with a well-equipped bathroom and sturdy, antique furniture. But we found the combined nocturnal snortings and snufflings hard to take. Togetherness has its limits.

The next day, after a hefty breakfast, we began to enjoy ourselves. Nigel and Heather Chapman, who run the place, have children of their own and know the score. They have

converted a coach-house into a playroom, with toys, a bookcase, a snooker table, a television, a nursery and two nannies. The infants say and play while you head for comfort and do the things you never normally do, like turn further than page two of the Sunday paper. And at Woolley Grange you can also eat the things you never normally eat. That guinea-fowl, for example, came pot-roasted with baby leeks scented in a Sauternes sauce; among the other dishes on offer was "soufflé of beef scented with white truffle and woodland mushrooms served with chopped tarragon". The head chef, Anand Sastry, is a protégé of Raymond Blanc and his exotic creations were much appreciated, even by the five-year-old sharing a plate with us.

After lunch we dragged the kids from the coach-house and wandered into the wool and rubber town of Bradford, birthplace of the Moulton bicycle, still made there.

The guide books were right: it was rich in interesting buildings, weavers' cottages, up-and-down alleys, a shambles, a Saxon church. Not one of them held our children for a moment - not even the town bridge, the work of seven centuries, which boasts a 17th century chapel, later a prison. Thank heaven for the recreation ground which you will find just this side of the town. It was one of those still, sunny, greenhouse afternoons. We swung the baby and kicked a ball about, and blew bubbles out of a can.

Back at the hotel the children scamped for the coach-house while we were pampered in the conservatory with tea and silence. Even without the bargain bubbles, those few hours of blissful privacy would have made the weekend worthwhile.

Woolley Grange (Woolley Green, Bradford-on-Avon, Wiltshire, BA15 1TX; Tel 0221 64705) has 20 rooms, ranging from £75 to £135 a night. Weekend breaks until the end of March are £120-£160 and include all meals, newspapers and an activity - sports coaching, a visit to the theatre or a spa. From April there are 10 per cent discounts for stays longer than four days.

TRAVEL NOTES

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Life in Europe's slowest fast lane

TRAVEL NOTES

George Hill visited Albania from Athens on a four-day coach tour run by Albturist-Planitis (3 Akadimias Street, 10671, Athens). The all-in price was £208. Package tours from Britain are available from Regent Holidays (0272 211711) and Voyages Jules (same 011-486 87511).

—

TRAVEL

Brush up the old paintwork

Painting is one of those activities which nearly everyone thinks it would be fun to take up, if only there was enough time. It looks so enjoyable and relaxing and this initial impression is true. Painting is totally absorbing. There are now a large number of painting holidays and short breaks available, both at home and abroad; some are for just a weekend, others are for two weeks or more; all are with tuition from qualified artists.

These holiday courses begin at the most elementary level and progress to what are virtually master-classes. Between them they cover all the disciplines: water-colours, oils, pastels, gouache, pen and ink. Subject matter is equally varied with specialist courses on such areas as painting portraits or miniatures, Chinese brush painting, still life, landscape and life drawing.

Many of the courses take place in lovely locations at the ideal time of year when the weather is likely to be warm, the flowers



are out, and artistically floppy hats will not look at all out of place on those who are painting out of doors. Not only are the courses good fun, they are also effective. Most people return with new skills and much-needed confidence.

As hobbies go, painting is fairly inexpensive. Most of the travel companies will supply a comprehensive list of the items you require for any particular course or holiday. If you take to the pastime and want to go a little further, an easel will cost between £25-£30, and a stool about £15. It pays to buy good quality materials, but the beginner can start painting for an outlay of no more than £50.

A magazine, full of advice for would-be artists, is *Leisure Painter*, published monthly by Artist Publishing Company, Caxton House, High Street, Tenterden, Kent TN30 6BD (05806 3673). Price £1.35, annual subscription £17.50.

Robin Neillands

PAINTING HOLIDAYS

The widest range of painting holidays and courses comes from Artscape Holidays of Southend-on-Sea, which caters for every level of ability over a wide range of disciplines, including oils, water-colour, acrylic and pastels.

Two introductory holidays aimed at complete beginners are "Principles of Oils", which costs £287 for seven days, full board and tuition included, and "Principles of Water-colours" at £346, also one week and full board. The more

experienced could try "Advanced Oils" in August, from £289 for one week, all inclusive.

Although the groups are kept small, it is not uncommon for different levels of ability to attend the same one. Much of the tuition is on an individual basis, and the students also learn from each other. Advice on holiday choice can be obtained from Mrs Elsie Lloyd at Artscape. In Britain the company's holidays are often based at agricultural colleges, where the facilities are excellent and the surrounding countryside full

of interest, but Artscape also runs holidays abroad.

Would-be Van Goghs can try 10 days of "Landscape Painting" at St Remy in Provence from £950, or "Building and Landscape Painting" in the Belgian city of Bruges, which once played host to the Van Eycks. A painting week in Bruges costs from £379 in June or July. Study courses, which include guided visits to art galleries and museums, are available in Florence and Paris from £493. Other holiday painting locations include Siena in Tuscany and Gubbio in Umbria.

UK HOLIDAYS

A relaxed holiday, which also offers provision for the non-painting partner, comes from Trusthouse Forte which runs a number of "Painting in Water-colours" breaks as part of its "Country Pursuits" programme in 1990.

These are based in comfortable hotels at attractive locations like Grasmere in Cumbria and Padstow in Cornwall. All are led by experienced artists. Participants pay from £89 for a weekend course, full-board and tuition included. They also receive a Daler Rowney painting pack of materials for use during the weekend which they can take home afterwards. The non-participating partner pays from £66, also for two days.

A longer stay is available from Countrywide Holidays of Manchester at its centres at Hope in the Peak District, and Ambleside and Grasmere in Cumbria, from £162 to £183 per week, depending on course and location.

Courses cover both oil and water-colour painting, mostly landscapes, starting with basic techniques and moving to a more advanced level. There are individual fact-sheets for all these holidays.

Painting is also among the many activities offered by HF Holidays ranging from "Painting for Beginners" and "Water-colours for Beginners", to "Drawing for Fun" and a new one: "Cartooning". Prices start at around £210 for one week, full board, including tuition.

SHORT BREAKS

Closer to home, a range of weekend, mid-week and full-week courses on all aspects of art are available throughout the summer at the Earmley Concourse, situated near Chichester in West Sussex.

These include seven days on "Water-colour Painting for Beginners" in early June from £270 for residents, full board, or from £152 for non-residents.

A week "Drawing and Painting Churches", including lectures and visits, costs a similar sum; while four days on "Father Steps in Water-colour Painting" for the more advanced student, cost £182 for residents and £104 for non-residents.

Full details and brochures can be obtained from the Earmley Concourse on the telephone number given below.

The Field Studies Council (FSC) is another body which includes painting among a wide range of other activity holidays, and sets many of them at the Flatford Mill Study Centre, deep in the heart of Constable country.

Many of these FSC painting courses are wedded to a wildlife theme and involve painting trees or flowers. Courses available include "Landscape Painting and Drawing", one week, full board for £172, or "Introducing Flower Painting", five days for £140.

There is also a weekend on "Working with Water-colours", which is an introductory course for those interested in learning the basic techniques of water-colour painting. Price £85, full board.

These FSC painting courses cover a wide range of subjects: portrait, landscape, flowers and still-life, and the tuition, from professional artists such as Roy Freer and Grenville Cottingham, is of a high standard.



Lavenham, Suffolk: "A little amateur painting shows the innocent and quiet mind", wrote Robert Louis Stevenson in 1881

"Willows, old rotten planks, slimy posts, and brickwork, I love such things... those scenes made me a painter and I am grateful", wrote John Constable in a letter, 1821

ABROAD

Cox and King offers a far-ranging range of painting holidays in Kashmir, Spain, Greece, Italy and France. These include four French painting centres, in the Auvergne at Cordes, Brantôme and Ribérac, as well as that painter's dream, the fishing port of Honfleur in Normandy.

Prices vary, but 16 days in Kashmir, staying at Srinagar, costs from £1,395; eight days, based at Le Cheval Blanc in Honfleur, costs from £630. Honfleur has played host to Corot, Boudin and Hamelin and these holidays aim to follow in the masters' footsteps, offering painting at the same locations.

The Auvergne has beautiful landscapes and here the Cox and King parties are based at Paul and Babette Deggan's studio at Montaigne, where good instruction and fine cooking cost from £985 for 19 days. This is a long holiday, but a week at the Atelier

Lombard in Brantôme costs from £565 or, for two weeks, £815. Full details on all Cox and King painting and activity holidays are available from the company at the telephone number below.

Serenissima demonstrates the seriousness of its approach to art by having its 1990 brochure illustrated by such artists as Graham Rust and Sir Hugh Casson. Two weeks cruising and painting in the Aegean costs from £1,795, a long weekend inspection of the Thyssen art collection in Lugano costs from £740.

Something rather less expensive is available from that excellent company, Inntrevel of Helmsley in Yorkshire, which offers painting and drawing holidays by the River Tarn in France from £344 for seven nights. These holidays are run by Jacqueline Black, an artist who lives in France and offers tuition in oils, crayon, gouache and pastels - in which she specializes.

Voyages Jules Verne has a comprehensive range of painting holidays in such splendid

settings as Dubrovnik in Yugoslavia, Kas in southern Turkey, Selva in the mountains of Mallorca, Mount Olympus in Greece and Kandersteg in Austria, as well as, for something completely different, Gjirokaster in Albania (politics permitting). A week here in October costs from £545, a week in Venice in June from £1,149.

Painting is also among the growing range of activity holidays, 40 in all, available from Saga Holidays of Folkestone. Trips available include a two-centre holiday in Capri and Sorrento, half-board with tuition available, from £569. Groups here are usually kept to about 20 to 25 to allow scope for plenty of personal tuition. Saga is also taking painting groups to Neja on the Costa del Sol, 14 days from £377; in the UK, holidays available include seven nights' painting at St Ives in Cornwall, at Rothsay in Scotland, or at Ventnor on the Isle of Wight. Prices from £171.

This is only a small recommended selection of painting

holidays from the vast choice available. Whatever your level of ability and whatever medium suits you best, or even if you have yet to decide if painting really is for you, there are plenty of holidays and plenty of opportunities to find a style that suits you.

INFORMATION

Artscape Painting Holidays, Southend (0702 617900). Inntrevel (0439 711111). Voyages Jules Verne (01-724 6624). Serenissima (01-730 8941). Countrywide Holidays (061 225 1000). HF Holidays (01-203 6411). The Field Studies Council (0743 850674). The Earmley Concourse (0243 670392). Saga Holidays (0303 857000). Trusthouse Forte Country Pursuits (01-567 3444). Manor Studio, Westbury (0380 830320). St David's Painting Holidays, Dyfed (0437 720414). Mounts Bay Art Centre, Cornwall (0736 66284). Yard Farm Studio, Taunton (0984 55558). Twelve Island Holidays (Greek Islands), Romford (0708 752653).

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NUMBER ONE ACROSS THE ATLANTIC

TRAVEL NEWS

In a bit of bother abroad? Think twice before asking the British Consul for a helping hand. He is a hard man these days, and may tap your relatives for funds before dipping into the taxpayers' pocket. The number of travellers sent home on a consular IOU has dropped from 445 in 1986 to 129 last year. Few of those assisted default on repayment, which is a condition of having one's passport returned.

Leads detailing what a consul can and cannot do to help British travellers in overseas emergencies are available from travel agents.

Vietnam's history and culture are the subject of a 15-day tour from Oriental and Occidental. The tour leader on the £2,100 holiday in early August will be Vietnam expert Paul Cleaves of Eton College. Information: 01-673 1074.

Lufthansa and the East German airline Interflug are expanding air services between the two Germanys in the summer timetable, which comes into operation on March 25. Pending government approval, Lufthansa will be raising the number of weekly flights to East Germany to 14. Interflug will operate 17 flights weekly connecting Leipzig and Dresden with Düsseldorf, Hamburg and Cologne/Bonn. Information: 01-408 0442.

Shona Crawford Poole
Travel Editor

TRAVEL BOOKS

The traveller who is more interested in masonry than beaches will be grateful for a new series of "Architectural Guides for Travellers" published by Viking (£11.99 each). The first three books in the series focus on *Mosque*, *India* (by C. E. R. Tilston), *Islamic Spain* (Godfrey Goodwin) and *Classical Turkey* (John Freely). Each book summarizes the history of the period and people covered, and examines their architecture and its development, with detailed descriptions of buildings of particular interest. Pictures are black and white

and there are maps and plans of many structures. The text is more serious than the average guidebook but is not too academic for the layman with an interest in the subject.

Quality ratings are awarded to B&Bs in *AA Inspected Bed and Breakfast in Britain* (AA Publishing, £5.95). All of the 3,000 B&Bs listed are awarded up to four Q-symbols indicating the standard of facilities and services offered from a single Q for clean, modest accommodation to four Qs for the top 165 B&Bs.

Jenny Tabakoff

SNOW REPORT

Travellers to the Alps spent most of this busiest of peak season weeks huddled indoors, shutters barred against the wind and the rain. But yesterday morning sunshine broke through at most resorts, though it continued to snow lightly in western parts of France and Switzerland. After a week of snow, snow is here, and in abundance.

The prospects for immediate skiing, and for this new snow lasting, are better than after the season's first major snowstorm two weeks ago.

As with that weather event, this snow was accompanied by hurricane winds and rain. The difference this time is that the rain came before the snow. This means that there is now an underlying sandwich of heavy, wet slush between the old base and the increasingly lighter layers of new snow which fell this week. Unlike last time, the top coating of snow, in some places thigh-deep, can honestly be called powder.

Look forward to sunny but cold days throughout the Alps, particularly in southern regions, with some new snow in the north-west.

The best of the snow, as usual, fell on the higher resorts in the north and the west of the Alps. The south and the east of Austria did less well, as did Cortina in Italy, which is still only 75 per cent open. Skiers, especially intermediates, will find that the large,

open ski fields of resorts like Klosters and Courmayeur will provide better skiing than the steeper slopes of resorts like Chamonix, Val d'Isère and Verbier, which will be slower to open.

Doug Sager

TRAVEL BOOKS

The traveller who is more interested in masonry than beaches will be grateful for a new series of "Architectural Guides for Travellers" published by Viking (£11.99 each). The first three books in the series focus on *Mosque*, *India* (by C. E. R. Tilston), *Islamic Spain* (Godfrey Goodwin) and *Classical Turkey* (John Freely). Each book summarizes the history of the period and people covered, and examines their architecture and its development, with detailed descriptions of buildings of particular interest. Pictures are black and white

and there are maps and plans of many structures. The text is more serious than the average guidebook but is not too academic for the layman with an interest in the subject.

Quality ratings are awarded to B&Bs in *AA Inspected Bed and Breakfast in Britain* (AA Publishing, £5.95). All of the 3,000 B&Bs listed are awarded up to four Q-symbols indicating the standard of facilities and services offered from a single Q for clean, modest accommodation to four Qs for the top 165 B&Bs.

Jenny Tabakoff

Dutch Tulips.

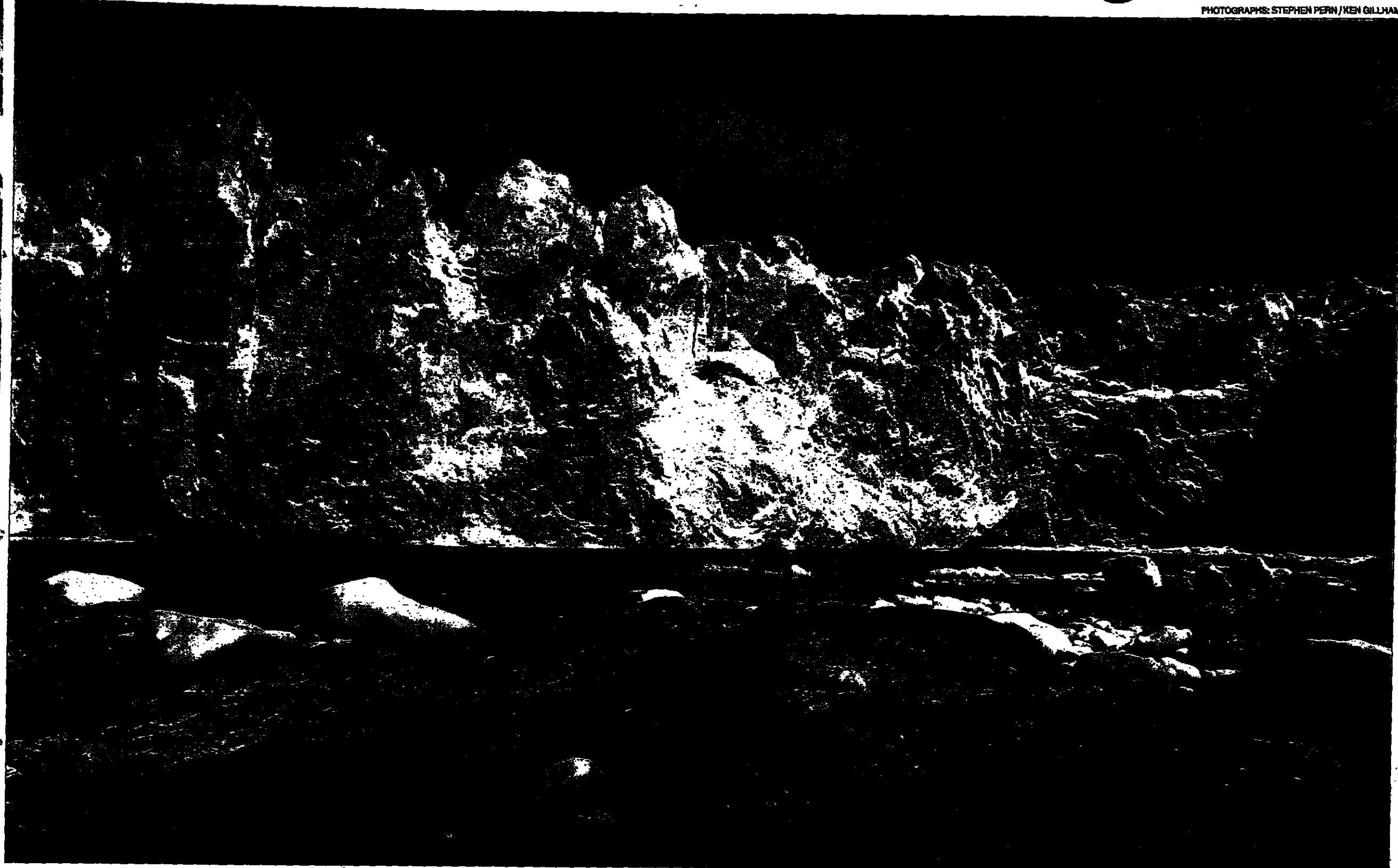
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TRAVEL

Stepping ashore in Patagonia

PHOTOGRAPHS: STEPHEN PERIN / KEN GILLHAM



Awesome, majestic: the Moreno glacier in Patagonia, edging down from white, sharp-toothed mountain peaks — a silent, wild and barren place where even the summer winds bite through the land at up to 85mph; winds that smell good, clean from Antarctica

Before reading Bruce Chatwin I half believed that Patagonia was located in one's emotional geography, approximately at the same latitude as Camelot and El Dorado; its shores were scoured by little curly seas, there were signs saying "Here be Dragons", and I was afraid.

Now that the airlines have reduced the globe to the size of a credit card, we remind each other that we know it intimately, but we are wrong. The faster we travel the further we are separated from our true destination; horizontally, we are aware, yet of the depths we remain ignorant. In Patagonia we are forced to explore these depths; anything less is futile.

The vast plateau of Patagonia lies south of Argentina's Rio Colorado, sub-divided into the provinces of Neuquen, Rio Negro, Chubut, Santa Cruz and the Territory of Tierra del Fuego: 780,000 square miles, supporting less than one person per square mile. From Buenos Aires to Ushuaia, the southernmost town in the world, takes four to five days by sea. In December there are 19 daylight hours, with summer winds biting through the land at 70 to 85mph. You can feel this wind, smell it too; it smells good, clean from Antarctica.

I went ashore at Puerto Madryn where 153 Welsh landed off the brig *Mimosa* in 1865, refugees from the coal mines and from Parliament's ban on the Welsh language in schools. They had no reason to like the English; what they wanted was a New Wales untroubled by Englishmen; they found it in Gaiman, 40 miles across the thorn desert in a green valley. They did not want luxury, they wanted to be Welsh. And they still are.

Before heading for Gaiman I drove for three hours over a dirt track to Punta Tombo. I got one puncture and saw three guanacos, a brace of rheas and a few loopy rabbits. Nothing else; not a house, no people. Then I saw the penguins, a hundred thousand busy Fred Astaires all decked out to dance in sleek black tailcoats.

Gaiman had become a hybrid; clinical new villas among adobe brick cottages. I called on the retired bank manager, Archie Griffiths, who, understanding my English, declined to reply in the same tongue, keeping to Welsh and Spanish. In his shiny Ford Sierra he took me to the chapel — *Agorwyl y Capel Cynaf* over the door — showing me pews carved by his grandfather, reading the Bible to me in his beautifully resonant Welsh voice. A neat, kindly bachelor, he gave me tea in his neat house, a clock insipidly chiming away the hours of his retirement. Then he took me to meet Mrs Tegai Roberts, whose great-grandfather settled here two years



Michael Watkins travels into the wilderness of Argentina and Chile — and sails on to the southernmost town in the world

before the *Mimosa* arrived. Caernarfon he came from. She had a chintz sofa and two chairs from Wales; and masses of books. She read aloud to me, extracts from Chatwin's visit to the village in the 1970s. "You writers take certain liberties," she admonished me, and went on to tell me about the hymn-singing and local cisteddied.

On my way back to Puerto Madryn the car was buffeted by a swirling wind called *polvo del diablo*, devil's dust. This place seemed remote, but far from Godforsaken; there is a saying hereabouts that God is everywhere, but that His office is in Buenos Aires.

Two days later we entered the Magellan Straits and I landed at Punta Arenas in pursuit of Chatwin's relative, Charley Milward, who, around 1928, attended Matins at St James's church, sitting in a pew with a brass fiddle screwed on for his walking stick. Once he found, imprisoned in glacial blue ice, a

small piece of mylonite skin. I, for my part, found St James's; and, although the pews had been renewed, I found a plaque in memory of Charles Amherst Milward.

At 1184 Jose Nogveira I also found Margaret Harper, a spinster who taught at the British School for 40 years. She remembered Charley and showed me Charley's house, a cross between a chapel and a castle, with an iron gate with crossed "M"s entwined with pre-Raphaelite lilies. She pointed out the Silesian Fathers' Museum, where a particular exhibit caught my eye; a diver of mylonite skin looking like treasure from a schoolboy's pocket: a chunk of peanut-brittle stuck about with coarse red hairs, alive 10,000 years ago. Miss Harper's parents came from Liverpool. "You will write to me, won't you?" she asked as I took her arm across the traffic-free street to her flat.

Somewhere I had picked up the scent of a man who had

worked in the production lines of a Puntas Arenas crab factory. He watched the crabs die in steam, packing their flesh in metal cans. It was rumoured that he had experience of production line technique, having invented and administered a mobile gas oven in Nazi Germany. I searched the telephone book for his name, but he must have been ex-directory.

I had a guide in this frugal Chilean town, a lovely girl with a scrubbed complexion. She told me that she was going to university in Santiago. "It's not too difficult for you to get here," she said, "but it is very difficult for us to get away."

For the next two days my ship, the *Ocean Princess*, steamed through the Beagle Channel, remembered graphically by Charles Darwin. It was grey and chill, the water strewn with a confetti of ice-floes, glaciers edging down mountain crevices.

The only vegetation was the forests of lenga, tortured by wind into unearthly shapes, nature's political prisoners. There was silence and a terrible majesty full of menace. I would not have missed it for worlds; but it was a sober journey, there was nothing to make light of. The ship's band tried, belting out Broadway melodies, but it didn't work; it was like playing Mantovani at an execution.

Ushuaia, back in Argentina, seemed the end of the world, final box-room in a great mansion. *Fin del Mundo* T-shirts were on sale at dejected-looking shops. It was a shanty town, created yesterday, doomed tomorrow. There were as many dogs as people, with more than a touch of husky blood. Stiff-necked lupins struggled, a few ragged roses too; as for the rest, it was all weeds and wanton neglect. The surrounding forests, lakes and mountains were a joyous wilderness, but to live in Ushuaia you would need the imagination of a stone.

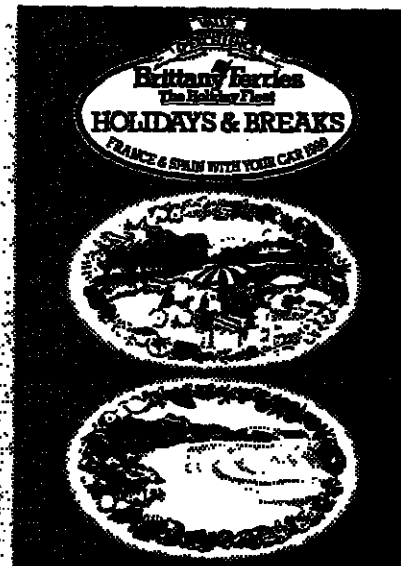
There was something, the prison, now used as a naval barracks. Its most celebrated inmate, Simon Radwitsky, escaped once, almost froze to death and gave himself up. There is nowhere to go, only hell. Yaghan Indians lived in Ushuaia, but when the Argentine Navy came they died of measles and pneumonia.

I walked the streets, shrugging into my coat, perversely glad to be there. Waving to an armed sentry, he was momentarily thrown off balance, waving back and smiling broadly; the only smile in Ushuaia.

I tried and failed to see over the abandoned prison. The guards were frank and friendly, innocent as farmboys; young enough to die. And I thought of the politicians, cynical and safe, playing war-games from a distance.

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Ushuaia: the old penal colony and last town before Antarctica

TRAVEL NOTES

● Michael Watkins flew British Airways (01-897-4000) London to Rio de Janeiro, returning Buenos Aires to London Heathrow; PEX fare £819 return, economy class £1,758, Club class £2,256, first class £3,445. Argentine visa required.
● His cruise, "Paths of Magellan", was with Ocean Cruise Lines, 10 Frederick Close, Stanhope Place, London W2 2HD (01-724 7555); 16 nights aboard the *Ocean Princess*, including economy flights to and from London and all meals, but excluding shore excursions, from £1,995 to £3,450 per person (there is an optional excursion to Iguazu Falls at £175 per person).
● Tipping ship staff: allow about £75 per passenger.
● Independent travel in Patagonia is sufficiently popular in summer to lead to a shortage of hotel beds. For up-to-date information on driving conditions, accommodation and facilities for travellers, consult the latest edition of the *South American Handbook* (Trade and Travel Publications, £19.95). Further reading: *In Patagonia* by Bruce Chatwin (Picador, £3.99).
● Reliable Buenos Aires contact for ground arrangements is Furton S.A., Emaralda 1000 (1007). Tel: 511-1207/8200.



Tandon introduce the computer that doesn't add up. (A laptop that costs less than a desktop.)

It doesn't take a genius to know that a laptop usually costs more than its equivalent desktop. Yet at £2499, the Tandon 386 laptop is over £100 cheaper than the Tandon PAC 386sx desktop.

Despite its miniaturised price, however, the 386 laptop is certainly no dummy.

In addition to a 40MB hard disk, it has the same remarkably retentive memory as its desk-bound brother - 1MB RAM, expandable to 5MB. And the same speedy 16/8MHz

386sx processor. But although big in capacity, the 386 laptop is impressively small in size.

Weighing in at a very slender 14.5lbs, it's particularly handy should your work involve missions overseas.

Other features you'll appreciate are its 3 hour battery life, a high clarity VGA screen, and an AT keyboard with 12 function keys.

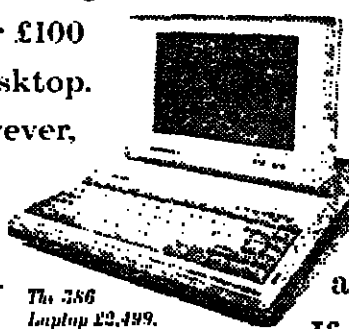
If, however, you find the 386 rather too powerful for your needs, there's the 20MB 286 laptop, with

an equally attractive price tag of just £1999.

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For more information on Tandon portables and free tickets for the Which Computer Show (24th - 27th April 1990) write to Tandon plc, FREEPOST, Hunt End, Redditch, Worcester B97 5XP. Or call us on (0527) 536550.

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